



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 24
Senate Utilities Committee
January 25, 2021

Chairman Thompson and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 24, which would maintain energy choices for Kansas consumers.

As technology and innovation bring changes to the energy sector, businesses have new opportunities to lower their energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint. The Chamber supports legislation and programs that encourage businesses, public utilities, citizens, and local governments to invest in energy efficiency improvements.

While The Chamber supports aggressive goals and plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with climate change, we are concerned about the unintended consequences of local ordinances that eliminate energy choices. For example, because natural gas is clean, reliable, abundant, and affordable, it is of particular importance to American business, especially manufacturers and restaurants. Eliminating natural gas as a choice would also further exacerbate the growing housing affordability issue. Economic Development Organizations would struggle to attract and retain jobs and investment if we were to lose natural gas as an energy choice for business.

We believe that state-level policies are necessary to balance the energy requirements of all consumers with the desire to reduce our carbon footprint and the imperative to remain competitive and grow our state's economy. To that end, The Chamber's 2021 legislative agenda calls for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, long-term Kansas energy plan.

Please support Senate Bill 24.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie S. Lowe".

Bonnie S. Lowe, IOM
President & CEO