

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Alan Bauman and I'm a resident of Prairie Village. As a former physician, I care deeply about the health and well-being of Kansans, and I'd like to see my community, and even my state, to adopt tools and goals to advance clean energy in Kansas to both reduce pollution and provide a positive impact to our local and state economies. I am writing in opposition to SB 24. Kansas is a diverse state with Western Kansas being largely rural and predominated by issues such as agriculture, and water rights. Eastern Kansas is more urban and is more concerned with issues such as urban sprawl and air pollution. The Kansas Constitution recognizes this fact and delegates authority to local government except in unusual circumstances. Just as it would be inappropriate for our urban cities to dictate agriculture Legislation for Western Kansas, so would it be inappropriate for rural communities to dictate air quality legislation to our urban areas.

Wind generated power is already cheaper to generate than natural gas. This differential is expected to expand in the future. EVERGY has recognized this fact, and already generates 30% of its electricity from wind. We are already seeing the demise of coal. I don't see why we propose to provide a natural gas subsidy, for a dying industry. Let us embrace the future. Kansas is already one of the top states in renewable energy. We need to grow our strength in wind energy, and not hobble it.

The American Lung Association gave Kansas City a D grade for ozone pollution in 2019. Air pollution causes pulmonary, and cardiac disease. Our burden of hospitalizations and work days lost, is increased due to poor air quality. This is a problem facing eastern Kansas. We need all the tools possible, so that our locally elected officials can address this problem.

Eastern Kansans will lose if SB 24 is enacted. The cheaper, cleaner and healthier option is to vote no on this proposed legislation. Allow the popular will of our community to take advantage of less polluting, clean energy resources we have in Kansas.

Thank you,

Alan Bauman MD