

Subject: SB 24, Energy Choice Act Hearing

January 25, 2021

I am writing regarding the upcoming hearing on SB 24, the Energy Choice Act. The proposed legislation, if approved, does not appear to be grounded in a serious effort to minimize the emission of green house gases. Many cities in Kansas have adopted climate goals that will be difficult to achieve with continued reliance on natural gas. Prohibiting cities from imposing any restrictions on the sources of energy customers may choose from will not contribute to a cleaner, more ecologically friendly environment. It will only contribute to our current and escalating production of pollution.

Promoters of clean energy in Kansas say the pending legislation preempts local decision-making, and they expressed concern that the language could interfere with transitioning from fossil fuels to renewables. They, and I, believe it is an attempt to stop local communities from taking climate action. Preemptively interfering with local governments 'energy plans, especially when using Kansas-based, pollution-free energy resources like wind, solar, energy storage, and efficiency that can create jobs, improve health and social equity outcomes, and save residents a lot of money, would be short-sided and negligent. The proposed legislation does not appear to give much choice to local communities and their elected leaders who want to move past the negative costs and effects of fossil fuels.

An opportunity to be progressive in addressing climate change has presented itself and I urge our legislators to vote against SB 24.

Respectfully submitted,

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