

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Kate Buren and I live Lawrence KS. I am writing to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as preserving a customer's choice in energy suppliers. What it is actually doing is opposing the will of the people by preventing municipalities from transitioning to clean energy. Clean energy is popular, safe, profitable, and what we need to stop the climate crisis we are currently in. Clean energy is something that needed to happen many years ago, if we do not have clean energy soon more and more people are going to start feeling and harmful effects of climate change. More people will be getting sick, killed, losing property, and their livelihoods. If the argument of the companies supporting this bill is that they will lose revenue, 1) they already have plenty of money, and 2) they should transition like the rest of us to producing clean energy instead of energy killing the planet and us.

Natural gas jobs are bubble jobs. They will not last. Instead of protecting and supporting the dying fossil fuel industry, we should be focused on facilitating a just economic transition away from natural gas and other harmful pollutants and towards Kansas' abundant renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Kansas must be proactively preparing workers for the renewable energy economy, not giving them false assurances of long-term job security. I urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration and time,

Kate Buren (she/they)

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