

January 19, 2021

To Sheila Wodtke
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cc: Senator Ethan Corson
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Representative Jerry Stogsdill
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Comment to the Public Record.

Regarding: Kansas Senate Bill 24, SB 24 – also known as the Energy Choice Act

I strongly oppose SB 24 for three reasons.

1) Restricting cities from adopting policies that allow increasing use of less expensive, less polluting renewable energy over more expensive, more polluting fossil fuel based energy sources violates the long standing Home Rule authority of Kansas cities (Article 12, Section 5b of the Kansas constitution).

2) Restricting cities from adopting policies that allow increasing use of less expensive, less polluting renewable energy over more expensive, more polluting fossil fuel based energy sources will prevent cities and utility rate payers from reaping the economic benefits of moving to renewable Kansas wind and Kansas solar energy sources in a timely fashion. (Why would we want to give Wyoming coal or Kansas gas an unfair advantage over Kansas wind or Kansas solar?) Shielding fossil fuels from economic competition makes no sense.

3) Restricting cities from adopting policies that allow increasing use of less expensive, less polluting renewable energy over more expensive, more polluting fossil fuel based energy sources will prevent cities from taking proactive action to head off the consequences of Climate Change. Climate Change has caused and is causing extreme weather events including torrential rains that wash out spring herbicide and fertilizer applications before they can serve their intended purpose, floods, mid and late summer droughts that reduce crop harvests, damaging wind events, and more powerful tornadoes (notably, the Greensburg tornado). Climate change is the greatest threat to the future wellbeing of Kansas. Municipalities should not have their hands tied when it comes to responding to the threat.

Combustion of fossil fuels is the primary cause of Climate Change. Reduction of fossil fuel use in Kansas should be a universal goal. Ignoring the dire consequences of the growing accumulation of CO2 in the atmosphere is suicidal.

SB 24 is bad public policy.
Fred Hopkins

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