

TESTIMONY OPPOSING SENATE BILL 24

Margaret Kramar

January 27, 2021

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

It is wrong to place more importance on short-term economic gain than the health and prosperity of future generations and the planet.

During the past century, coal, natural gas and oil served us well by powering our homes, providing efficient transportation and fueling our economy. However, these energies had the unfortunate side effects of polluting our air, water and soil, making us sick, and exacerbating climate change.

We are now living in the twenty-first century, and must say goodbye to these outdated, and increasingly harmful extractive technologies. It is understandable that those in the natural gas sector should feel shock, anger and denial over the demise of their industry. But it is time to move on. Please join us in our efforts to power the economy with sustainable, earth-friendly, renewable sources of energy.

My husband and I live on a small, sustainable farm where we grow organic vegetables and fruit just north of Big Springs, which is halfway between Topeka and Lawrence. We realize that the priorities and concerns of our community in the eastern portion of the state may differ from those living in central or western Kansas. That is why we support home rule and oppose Topeka issuing edicts which assume that one size fits all.

Although we are not entirely off the grid, about five or six years ago, we put solar panels on our barn in addition to installing a solar tracker. At the same time, we converted from propane to a geothermal heating and air-conditioning system. Sometimes we are asked how long it will take to recoup our investment. The cost was not the most important consideration for us. We, and a growing number of Kansas, enjoy our natural surroundings and are “all in” when it comes to preserving and protecting it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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