

Public Testimony for Energy Choice Act Hearing

As a resident of Kansas, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 24, The Energy Choice Act. Proposed by gas utilities, this bill would prevent local communities and cities from being able to self-govern and make decisions for themselves that they deem best for them. This goes against constitutional Home Rule, which was granted cities in 1960. In this matter, it is particularly important that state legislation does not interfere with the ability of local governments to make decisions that they deem best, because it has to do with the health and wellbeing of their citizens.

Reducing greenhouse gases is needed to have a healthier future with fewer climate disasters. One way this can be done is to have building codes and policies that support new, all-electric buildings. Moving to efficient electric appliances and equipment, which get their electricity from renewable electricity, would significantly cut climate-warming carbon emissions, while also providing cleaner indoor air. Health and safety risks from gas and its infrastructure are also reduced by this electrification. And studies indicate building all electric new buildings is actually cheaper.

It is understandable why gas utility and fossil fuel companies would like to have legislation passed that slows down the electrification of buildings and the development of renewable energy to power them. But we are at a critical time in the climate crisis when we must lower greenhouse gases for a livable future. Cities and localities that want to do what is best for their communities and the larger environment must not be prevented from doing this by this proposed bill. I therefore oppose SB 24 and ask that it be stopped from moving forward.

Submitted by:

Rev. Ruth Rosell, Ph.D.

McLouth, KS