

Testimony in Opposition to SB No. 24

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you in the matter before us here today, my name is John Shively, and I am the Director of the Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation at the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Our community of Catholic Sisters and Associates has long maintained a care of creation committee. This committee's stated mission is to educate and collaborate with others to heal the Earth and ourselves of the destructive effects of climate change. This long-standing commitment to caring for the planet is why I speak to you today in opposition to Senate Bill 24. Climate Change is real, it is caused by humans, and it is already creating significant harms in Kansas and across the world. Worst of all, climate change harms marginalized communities, like people of color and those living in poverty, the most.¹

Fortunately, while I would posit that climate change is our greatest challenge it is also our greatest moral opportunity to create a better world for Kansans. Sadly, Senate Bill no. 24 limits the opportunities for local entities to establish reasonable ordinances that decide their own energy future. The irony of titling this bill the Kansas energy choice act is that it expressly prohibits local communities from making their own clean energy choices and codifying those choices into law.

¹ [US Global Change Research Program: *Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume II*. 2018.](#) Summary Finding 1.

I would urge Senators to vote no on SB No. 24 because it is a moral opportunity for us to chart a cleaner energy future. This imagined future benefits the farmer, whose work and livelihood are currently threatened by extreme flooding. It benefits the people across the country and the world who are currently displaced by intensifying storms and wildfires. It benefits those with health issues which are currently exacerbated by intensifying heat and the production of unclean energy. We should not create any more barriers to the transition to a clean energy future that helps Kansas protect our economy, our homes, and our health.