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Re: House Bill 2641

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I'd like to thank Representative Victors for introducing this bill.

The proposed 8,000 PSI cap on pressurized injection wells in Kansas is a commonsense measure that must be taken to protect public and private lands and structures from damages caused by induced seismic activity. Kansas has the third largest Class II injection program with more than 16,000 enhanced oil recovery and wastewater injection wells. It's no surprise that Kansas citizens have been dealing with a sudden onset of damaging earthquakes.

High-pressure injection causes earthquakes. There is no question about that. Certainly the Kansas geoscape raises concerns regarding individual fault lines and localized vulnerability to pressurized injection. As of now, the Kansas Corporation Commission allows operators to inject at high pressure without conducting a thorough geological evaluation.

The Kansas legislature has an opportunity with this bill to gain public support by acknowledging that there is a revolution of public perception about oil and gas. My friends have watched clean, potable water leave their hydrants in tanker trucks while they are rationing their personal water use. This water is then irreversibly contaminated in the extraction process and then pumped deep underground, completely and finally removed from the hydrological cycle. We're trading a finite resource on which life itself depends for a combustible fuel or plastic that is here one day and gone the next.

We have seen the damage that a relatively short era of fossil fuel extraction, transportation, combustion and waste disposal has created. As this resource depletes, it is time to turn our attention to how we heal the land from the damages caused by careless industry practices, and face the hopeful reality that we can generate energy without putting our future generations at risk.

The solar industry now employs more US citizens than oil, coal and gas combined. Even still, consumers are largely dependent on fossil fuels. The least we can do is exercise care. Measures such as this bill are the incremental steps we need to take to count the true costs of the use of fossil fuel. We need to minimize the risk and cap the permitted pressure on Class II injection.

Sincerely,  
Elexa Dawson