



Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 24
House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
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Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Scott Schneider and I am here on behalf of the Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association. We support the passage of SB 24. We believe the passage of SB 24 is reasonable and measured because it would make clear that local governments could not participate in the removal of natural gas as an energy source.

Earlier last year, the City of Berkeley banned natural gas infrastructure — effectively banning natural gas use — in newly-constructed buildings. The ban, which the California Restaurant Association has claimed violates both state and federal law, would have impact both residential and commercial construction, and would have uniquely negative impacts on restaurants. The Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association does not want to be in the same situation as the California Restaurant Association when needing to litigate this issue.

It would be difficult to overstate these impacts on a restriction of natural gas, which are numerous. Whether searing steaks, charring vegetables, or stir-frying noodles, chefs and cooks rely on the most important tool in the creation of a dish – fire.

There are also economic impacts. Many restaurants use gas to heat water and space and for other appliances. This ban will raise costs to build and operate restaurants. Restaurant owners may simply choose not to move to or construct new buildings because they will not have access to natural gas.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 24.