



House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

Testimony in Support of SB 24

Submitted by J. Kent Eckles

Tuesday, March 16th, 2021

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kent Eckles on behalf of the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 24, which prohibits municipalities from imposing restrictions on customer's use of energy based upon source.

There's a growing trend of municipalities in some states adopting ordinances to prohibit natural gas hookups in new residential and commercial construction. These ordinances are part of a concerted effort by the "keep it in the ground" movement, which seeks to prevent fossil fuels from getting to market. Other examples of their tactics include: banning pipelines, seeking to prevent crude-by-rail and supporting bans on hydraulic fracturing among others.

Banning natural gas hookups in new construction will only negatively impact both consumers and local businesses, who benefit from this safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy source.

Abundant, clean-burning natural gas is powering human progress while also enabling the United States to lead the world in greenhouse gas reductions. Kansas should not allow that progress to be interrupted by local ordinances that signal climate virtue but have the opposite real-world effect.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 24.