



# City of Lawrence

CITY COMMISSION

MAYOR  
BRADLEY R. FINKELDEI

COMMISSIONERS  
COURTNEY SHIPLEY  
STUART BOLEY  
LISA LARSEN  
JENNIFER ANANDA, JD, MSW

CRAIG S. OWENS  
CITY MANAGER

City Offices  
PO Box 708 66044-0708  
www.lawrenceks.org

6 East 6<sup>th</sup> St  
785-832-3000  
FAX 785-832-3405

March 15, 2021

Representative Seiwert  
Chair – House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee  
Rm. 582-N, Statehouse  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill 24

Dear Representative Seiwert and Committee Members,

The City of Lawrence is opposed to passage of Senate Bill 24, both on home-rule principles and based on renewable energy goals the City is striving to implement.

As locally elected leaders, we are accountable to voters for the decisions made on behalf of our community. The Kansas Legislature should not erode this Home Rule Authority. This bill restricts our ability to respond to the values and priorities set by our community members, in this case, renewable energy goals.

This bill will, in effect, take away decision-making power from cities across the State of Kansas at the expense of Kansas residents being able to make their own local decisions. This is of immediate concern to cities like Lawrence which update local codes on a regular basis to maintain high quality building stock and affordable operating costs. These energy efficiency codes are designed to reduce energy burdens, especially on vulnerable populations, and promote public health. This bill seems to permanently infringe on our ability to adopt best practices in building codes as they relate to energy and inhibit cities from doing anything to encourage efficiency or clean energy.

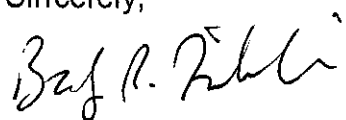
An alternative to limiting the powers of local government is to set statewide goals and a renewable energy portfolio standard for regulated utilities. The new federal administration and leadership at the US Environmental Protection Agency will have a new direction for energy industries, including a stronger push for renewables. Instead of restricting cities like Lawrence, in perpetuity, Kansas can position itself to be a leader and invest in this growing renewable economy.

The adoption of Senate Bill 24 will restrict the ability of cities to make decisions on behalf of their residents, limit the ability of cities to adopt best practices in building codes, and ultimately slow progress toward cleaner energy sources in the State of Kansas.



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad R. Finkeldei". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "B" and "F".

Bradley R. Finkeldei  
Mayor