

Testimony of Mattie Bell for Senate Bill 24
Written-only Opponent to SB 24

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee, my name is Mattie Bell and I live in Lawrence. I am writing to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as preserving a customer's choice in energy suppliers. What it is actually doing is opposing the will of the people by preventing municipalities from transitioning to clean energy. Clean energy is popular, safe, profitable, and what we need to stop the climate crisis we are currently in.

Support of natural gas in Kansas is often couched in jobs. That natural gas jobs are good paying, long term, career jobs. But they're not! They're bubble jobs that will become more and more obsolete. Gas investments will become wasted money as we transition further to fully electric buildings. Even if you don't want it to happen, the move to clean energy is already happening across the country. It's good for local economies because it creates long term, good paying jobs. We *are* transitioning to a green economy. Maybe not federally, but it is happening on the local level, nation-wide. This bill is an effort to stop that, to stop Kansans like myself from finding dignified work doing things like installing solar panels or monitoring maintaining wind turbines.

Instead of protecting and supporting the dying fossil fuel industry, we should be focused instead on facilitating a just economic transition away from natural gas and other harmful pollutants and towards Kansas' abundant renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Kansas must be proactively preparing workers for the renewable energy economy, not giving them false assurances of long-term job security. I urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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