

Testimony of Brenna Regan for Senate Bill 24
Written-only Opponent to SB 24

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Brenna Regan and I live in Olathe. I am writing to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as preserving a customer's choice in energy suppliers, though 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. Not only would this bill be going against a part of the Kansas Constitution—one that gives cities the right “to determine their local affairs and government”—but it would also be violating the respiratory health of Kansans. In a time when a deadly virus is attacking the lungs and overall bodies of millions worldwide, whether or not the burning of fossil fuels is being used as an energy source matters greatly. The ability to obtain energy in a way that will not harm the Kansans using it is worth infinitely more than the mass of wealth gained by few and the premature deaths of many. If the argument of the companies supporting this bill is that they will lose revenue, 1) they already have plenty of money, and 2) they should transition like the rest of us to producing clean energy instead of energy killing the planet and us.

Natural gas jobs are bubble jobs. They will not last. Instead of protecting and supporting the dying fossil fuel industry, we should be focused 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 strongly urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brenna Regan
21865 W 119th Ter.
Unit 2503
Olathe, KS 66061