

*Subject: Written testimony of Justin Runge in opposition of Senate Bill 24*

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Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Justin Runge and I live Lawrence. I write today to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as consumer advocacy, when in actuality it undermines municipalities who wish to efficiently transition to clean energy.

Clean energy — popular, safe, profitable — is what's needed to stop the worsening climate crisis. Just as I do, a majority of Americans support steps that stem further damage. These same actions can energize our economy and provide good-paying jobs — immediate benefits that might compel you, even if the health of our planet and of future generations might not.

The companies that support this bill argue that they will lose revenue. These companies, more than successful, should use their positions and profits to lead a transition to clean energy, not drag it down or pull it into the detrimental dirty-energy past.

Just as fossil fuels have a finite timeline, so do the jobs related to their production. We must provide sustainable careers — not false assurances of job security in dying industries. Workers can and should have vital roles in a just economic transition away from gas and toward the renewable energy sources abundant in Kansas.

I urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Justin Runge