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Senate Utilities Committee
Re: Written-only Opponent to SB 24

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

Testimony of Emily Ryan for Senate Bill 24

My name is Emily Ryan, and I live Lawrence, KS. 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. The federal government is only beginning to nod toward actions that prioritize clean energy, and the state is doing even less. It is essential that we as individuals who know the imminent threat of climate change can act for ourselves and within our local communities, to adopt clean energy goals and plans. 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.

Clean energy is the future, and it will be in the best interest of companies to transition their investments now in that direction. For once, please help Kansas be a leader for good, rather than the holdout who refuses to see reality and cling to a limited notion of what we once knew. 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 urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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