



City of Lawrence

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January 21, 2021

Senator Mike Thompson
Chair —Senate Utilities Committee
Rm. 548 S, Statehouse
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Senate Bill 24

Dear Senator Thompson 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.

SB 24 would prevent cities from incentivizing or even encouraging energy efficiency or renewable clean energy. It would also limit the ability of cities to stay in alignment with the International Code Council International Building Code, which is an essential tool to preserve public health and safety. The *International Energy Conservation Code*® addresses energy efficiency on several fronts including cost savings, reduced energy usage, conservation of natural resources, and the impact of energy usage on the environment. Updating local codes on a regular basis is an important part of maintaining high quality building stock and affordable operating costs. 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.

Sincerely,

Bradley R. Finkeldei
Mayor



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