

Dear Chairman O'Neill, Vice Chairwoman Robinson, and members of the Committee,

I strongly urge you to oppose Ordinance 230891.

This isn't a win for Kansas Citizens: Gas bills to customers will increase. At the same time, we need to make real moves toward a fossil fuel-free future — and this ordinance isn't it.

### **What Experts are Saying About Renewable Natural Gas**

"Replacing fossil gas with lower carbon alternatives causes the rates of the State's largest gas utility, Baltimore Gas & Electric, to increase two to three times 2021 levels by 2035 and **seven to 11 times 2021 levels by 2050**, with similar ranges of rate increases for Maryland's two other large gas utilities. Such rates are not sustainable. As rates increase to these levels, the resulting high bills will lead many customers — likely most all customers who have options — to leave the gas system, leaving behind customers without alternatives." - Report for the Maryland Office of People's Counsel on the combined impacts of electrification and fuel decarbonization on gas rates. (Maryland OPC 2022a)

"[RNG] is a ruse. If gas utilities get their way, they will invest millions of ratepayer dollars into new gas pipeline infrastructure designed to bring the meager amounts of RNG to their customers. Then, when the supply of RNG can't meet the demand, as it assuredly cannot, utilities might quietly meet that demand with fossil gas, thereby reversing any benefits RNG might provide. At most, the US might be able to produce enough RNG to offset 15 percent of gas usage today, but only at a **five-fold cost increase** and with a carbon footprint that is still 55 to 60 percent that of conventional natural gas." - "[The Smoke and Mirrors Defense of RNG](#)" - Laura Feinstein and Eric de Place, Sightline Institute

"...[G]enerating RNG to provide a small percentage replacement of fossil gas in pipelines is unlikely to provide much, if any, benefit. In a world seeking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, our better strategy is to electrify as much as possible. This is because even though electricity may currently be generated in part from fossil fuels, the direction we are heading is to convert that generation to clean renewable energy sources. - "[What's Up with RNG \(Renewable Natural Gas\) and Other Fossil Gas Alternatives?](#)", South Oregon Climate Action Network, 2022

"[Report](#) after report has concluded that relying on 'renewable' gas to reduce building emissions would be expensive and not technically feasible. Propping up a polluting industry with false climate solutions would make these problems worse for communities that live nearby. Hydrogen and 'renewable gas' should not be piped into buildings for heating or cooking and should instead be reserved for the sectors of our economy that will be more difficult to decarbonize in the years ahead, such as energy-intensive industrial uses, air travel, or shipping. Any suggestion otherwise is simply a dangerous, greenwashed effort by the gas industry in an attempt to keep us hooked on fossil fuels. "[Avoid False Solutions for Clean and Healthy Buildings: Greenwashed Hydrogen and So-Called 'Renewable' Gas are Not Viable Alternatives to Clean Electricity for Homes and Buildings](#)" - Sierra Club, 2023

"The reality is that energy companies' push to promote RNG has less to do with moving toward a clean energy system than with locking gas into our energy future and entrenching and expanding existing fossil fuel infrastructure." - "[Renewable Natural Gas is not your friend](#)", Frontier Group 2022

"It isn't a close call. The research is clear: RNG is not a viable alternative for decarbonizing buildings. It is a desperate bid by natural gas utilities to delay their inevitable decline. Policymakers would be foolish to fall for it." - ["The false promise of 'renewable natural gas.'"](#) David Roberts

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

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