



## **Testimony for Senate Utilities**

**3/6/12**

### **Proponent Testimony on HB 2526**

Chairman Apple and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am Zack Pistora, Legislative Director for Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak toward the favor of HB2526, which allows for more explicit oversight over hydraulic fracturing sites.

The Kansas Sierra Club and Kansans all across the state feel hydraulic fracturing, especially with horizontal drilling, puts both our environment and our communities at grave risk, if left unmonitored and unaccountable. Kansas must be ensured, with a state guarantee, that our land, air, and water that we all depend on will not be compromised by these wells.

We support our state regulatory agency in implementing important safeguards on energy extraction to make sure our people and ecosystem are healthy and protected. That said, we expect the state to provide the necessary funding and staff needed to effectively regulate the drilling as needed.

Because many states and federal regulatory agencies have already dealt with specific complications surrounding new hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies, Kansas Sierra Club also encourages our state to explore and utilize other state and federal standards and best-practices.

Overall, HB 2526 represents a smart, better-safe-than-sorry approach to hydraulic fracturing, especially with newer, controversial technologies like horizontal drilling.

Again, thank you for allowing me to testify. I hope you will consider our concerns. I will gladly stand for any questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Zack Pistora

KS Sierra Club

“Be Smart, Be Green”