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Chairman Seiwert, Vice Chair Schreiber, Ranking Minority Member Kuether and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in opposition to House Bill 2273.

My name is Adrian Harrel, I am the Wind Site Manager for Pratt Wind which is a 243 MW wind site owned and operated by NextEra Energy Resources in Pratt County, I am also a current elected member of the Kingman City Commission. I come before you today to share with you my story in hopes that you will see how detrimental a legislative measure like HB 2273 would be for rural Kansans.

I am a lifelong Kansan, born and raised. I graduated from Kingman High School in May of 2002. Immediately following high school, I began my career in the military. I served in both Iraq and Afghanistan as an Airborne Infantryman with the 82nd Airborne Division. After my separation from the Army, I served as a contractor for the Department of State's High Threat Protection program in Afghanistan for 4 years. After 12 years of service to the country, multiple deployments, and many years away from my family, it was time to come home. I started and ran my own businesses for a few years but eventually decided that it was time for me to find a career, something that I could retire from. Having a wife and 4 children, I knew I needed to find something that paid well and would provide the benefits that a growing family needs. The problem was, as many of you know, that can be awfully hard to find in many of our rural communities. At the time, NextEra Energy, a company that I had never heard of before, was building a wind site in Kingman County. I drove to the construction site, found the manager, and luckily got a position as a wind technician. Since then, I have worked as a wind technician, associate site manager, and site manager for 3 different NextEra Energy wind sites. All the while, I have been able to continue living in the small town that I love, my kids have stayed in the same schools, and we have been able to stay close to our families. The opportunities that the Wind industry in Kansas has given me are countless and I feel truly blessed to be able to wake up in my hometown every morning and go to work providing Kansas with clean, low cost, renewable energy.

Many of my friends and family members are farmers in rural Kansas. The wind industry has provided many Kansas farmers with much needed stability. Through the wind industry, farmers and landowners in Kansas are capitalizing on the opportunity to receive steady, long term payments for the use of their ground which serves as a crucial component to keeping family farms in business. Sun, rain, drought, or frost, the Kansas wind keeps blowing. If enacted, House Bill 2273 would rob Kansas landowners of this opportunity, and in many cases, take away the one thing that could save the family farm.

As you consider House Bill 2273, I would ask that you take into consideration not only my personal story, but the stories of so many Kansans that have benefited from the wind industry. Whether it be from the careers that have been provided, the incredible economic impact to our rural communities, or the family farms that have been saved. Enacting this legislation would be an incredible disservice to Kansans.