

**Opponent Testimony on House Bill 2273
Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Kansas House of Representatives**

Mark Goodwin, President and Chief Executive Officer, on behalf of Apex Clean Energy

February 15, 2019

Chairman Seiwert and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 2273, a bill that would bring an immediate halt to the development of wind energy in Kansas by imposing exceedingly burdensome siting and process regulations that are out of step with Kansas's historically pro-business, pro-energy climate.

Our company, Apex Clean Energy, has invested a significant amount of time and capital to develop wind energy in Kansas. Once completed, our projects—Neosho Ridge Wind in Neosho County and Jayhawk Wind in Bourbon and Crawford Counties—will provide clean, affordable electricity while contributing significantly to local economies. In terms of tax revenue, our Neosho Ridge Wind project alone will contribute:

- More than \$21.9 million in total county property taxes and PILOT revenue for Neosho County over the 25-year life of the project
- Nearly \$25.9 million in local school district revenue over the life of the project
- More than \$12.8 million in community college revenue over the life of the project
- More than \$63.6 million in property taxes and PILOT revenue in total for all taxing districts over the life of the project

Neosho Ridge Wind would also create hundreds of temporary construction jobs and 8 to 10 permanent operations jobs while generating significant additional local spending throughout. All this local tax revenue and economic activity would disappear should this bill move forward, and we are just one developer in a state known for its wind industry.

Framed as a "property protection act," HB 2273 would make it nearly impossible for landowners to participate in a wind energy project. These landowners are typically farmers who have joined a wind project in the hope of creating long-term sustainable revenue for their families. The one-size-fits-all approach to siting regulations takes away their property rights.

The application process laid out in the bill also ignores the wishes of zoned counties that have intentionally set welcoming regulations on wind energy while forcing unzoned counties to essentially accept zoning on wind energy projects, setting a troubling precedent for other industries considering investing in Kansas.

For an industry to thrive, it must have a reasonable and reliable business climate. By creating intentionally prohibitive siting regulations and additional red tape, this bill would undermine an industry that is creating jobs, local tax revenue, and economic investment in Kansas's rural counties. We urge this committee to reject HB 2273.

**Mark Goodwin
President and Chief Executive Officer
Apex Clean Energy, Inc.**