

To; Kansas House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

Testimony in opposition to HB 2273

February 14, 2019

Chairman Seiwert and members of the Committee:

My wife and I live in Wichita. Our son and his family are here with two wonderful small grandsons. Their future is incredibly important to us.

We own a farm in McPherson County that has been in the family all but a few years since the Louisiana Purchase. The property is currently under lease for wind energy development.

Low commodity prices and the increasing frequency of weather extremes made the opportunity of a drought-proof income of wind energy a welcome opportunity for us and about 100 surrounding land owners.

In a Republican-majority statehouse where the opportunity and responsibility exist to promote an energy plan that showcases enduring conservative values, a free market and limited government, I find it galling that land owners in the Old Trails wind project now face the opposite.

I oppose HB 2273 because:

It imposes regulations and increases bureaucratic burdens on business.

The punitive regulations make all but the largest parcels in the state ineligible at the cost of millions of dollars in payments to land owners, townships and counties. The bill kills opportunity for the very farms who could benefit the most, the smaller operation.

HB 2273, in whatever light it is presented in is a pro-pollution bill. Subsidized fossil fuel is no longer competitive with lower priced wind energy. The result of this bill will be to do through regulation what fossil fuel cannot do in the free market, retain market share against clean renewable low priced wind energy. I urge the committee members to vote against HB 2273.

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