

Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications
House Bill No. 2273 Establishing Wind generation Permit and Property Protection act

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As a former county commissioner in Ford County (western Kansas),
A property owner and wind production owner
A county commissioner currently in Pottawatomie County
A person who **experience local development** in the Spearville's 200 tower wind farm (before Kansas Governor Sibelius was invited to cut a ribbon.... after all the development and contracting was completed)
Who, as Asst Dean at Barton Community College Fort Riley, and visited Concordia's technical wind training and has seen the jobs growth and career opportunities in Kansas from creativity in the alternate energy field?

I am opposed to the state imposing broad sweeping regulations where local governance and planning and zoning should continue to be allowed to determine what is appropriate. Communities should, as they best know their needs and strengths, have the option and the right to limit or not limit wind development and should remain a local decision. Locally the USD 383 wind farms at Spearville have provided resources that off set what were insufficient local valuations, and city and school district have benefitted greatly, ie. moving Spearville from one of the poorest valuation districts to creating access to much needed in lieu of taxes funding. The challenges and opportunity would, I believe, with these broad, inflexible, cumbersome set back guidelines, have stopped that development dead.

Wind farms are a valuable "cover crop" providing additional income on ranch land and crop land and have not failed to generate a measure of income security when draught and hail have zeroed other production. Individual land owners have in all cases that I am aware of, had the choice of participating or not and though local control demands responsibility and leadership of planning boards and county commissioners, it is not appropriate for state absolutes to entirely wipe away the value of wind production from the property owners. Nor is it Ok to broadly reduce the potential value increases of property by such a sweeping set of rules.

Value of farm land with towers has increased, and as with development of any other commercial property, by passes, or high rises etc. in cities, in vicinity of one or more single family homes, values have, following local planning hearings and board decisions, often modified. Cities are I submit, allowed to forge ahead without such, state imposed guidelines.

As we have experienced in western Kansas when there is opportunity for wind energy growth, there can be reductions in residential property tax assessments. Likewise, I have experienced

that for area home owners in the wind farm area, they benefit from the fiscal contributions generated by reasonably negotiated local wind farm agreements.

Energy has always been part of the Kansas portfolio of wealth and I believe an open dialogue and understanding of what the great plains can contribute and how it can continue to benefit Kansas citizens, should come before the obstacle course of this bill is imposed.

I regret that I can not personally attend this hearing to answer questions, but If there are questions, I will attempt to provide response.

Thank you for your consideration