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Kansas Senate Utilities Committee
Testimony in Support of SB 279
Submitted by Dennis Hedke

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dennis Hedke, appearing on behalf of myself, a private citizen, and a geoscientist in private practice for many decades. I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB 279, which will serve to provide much needed guidance related to the placement of industrial wind turbines in the State of Kansas.

Since my planned retirement from the Kansas House at the end of the 2016 Session, I have remained interested in Energy Policy on both national and state levels. Many Kansas residents have experienced significant unrest, physical discomfort, mental anguish, and severe economic hardship as a result of the prolific development of industrial wind energy in this state.

I know this because of first hand testimony coming from residents who live in proximity to these machines; and they have attempted to resist further development, but have been very frustrated by the massive installations, even though they have been theoretically outside the "footprint" of the installations.

So, I applaud the effort underway via this piece of legislation that would serve to protect and defend the rights of these private citizens who have been, in some cases, very severely impacted by the noise, the flicker, the vibration and other effects they have actually felt inside their residences--due to wholly inappropriate setbacks from their private dwellings, and a range of other consequences they have **actually** --not theoretically-- experienced.

Study after study, by highly credentialed professionals have unequivocally confirmed the negative impacts experienced by residents in many states and countries, some of whom may be present here today. Yet, a large number of County Commissions have ignored their pleas for relief, and some Commissioners have, in absolute fact, colluded with Developers, and are culpable for the tactics that have been deployed against private citizens. So, the language in SB 279 related to County Commissions is wholly appropriate.

SB 279 contains language which will also serve to protect property rights, assuage the fears of private property owners who fear the realities of historically proven, and significant, decreased residential property values.

As an aside, there is no industry in America that has managed to obtain the magnitude of Federal Subsidies that have served to artificially lift the economic viability of the wind industry. While the Production Tax Credit appears to be phasing out, each and every year the massive Wind Lobby is back in force to seek extensions that no other industry enjoys. This becomes important because of the significant downsides that are likely to occur when it comes time to decommission these very large machines.

We are already seeing significant waste repositories in multiple states, due to the aging of turbine blades, and it will only get worse. This industry is doing absolutely nothing to bring material benefit to earth's climate, which was one of the false selling points decades ago.

It is high time that this industry comes to grips with the reality of its **unreliability**, and the fact that significant redundancy from fossil and nuclear fuels are required to backup the power when wind fails to generate the capacity to sustain grid requirements.