

Proponent Testimony for Senate Bill 279
Jessica Deters; Corning, KS

My name is Jessica Deters. I live less than a mile south of Corning, KS in the footprint of Soldier Creek Wind. My husband, Travis and I whole heartly endorse the adoption of Senate Bill 279. Had there been such a bill in place in 2018, our home, community and the small city we love would have had protection from these vultures that prey on un-zoned counties in Kansas.

As a resident with only 5 acres, we were never approached by anyone from Next-Era about the looming Soldier Creek Wind Farm project and didn't become aware of what was to come until the Spring of 2019. Of course, when we realized the magnitude of the project and how impacted our community would be, we knew we wanted to fight to protect our little piece of heaven. We knew if we didn't fight, we didn't have a chance. We had recently built our forever home with spectacular views in all directions. Living out our remaining years in an industrial wind park was not what we had planned. Being at odds with our friends and neighbors over wind energy was something that never crossed our minds. We feared what every non participating land owner fears. How will these turbines effect our property value? Will we have any adverse health effects? And of course, what will our beloved horizons look like?

When I listen to Alan Claus Anderson, Attorney for Nextera and Invenergy as he testified on Feb 21, 2019 on HB 2273, I am infuriated. He attested that "that bill takes away the local control that Kansas had decided long ago was important to be down at the local level..." He goes on to state "land use decisions should be based upon the local community's goals, values, etc ..." In theory this all sounds great, but shouldn't the community goals be based on the values of what the majority of the people living within that community and not just a small minority?? I find it very ironic that Mr. Anderson testifies at the state level in support of local zoning but when a local government attempts to protect their community goals through zoning they intimidate and bully the community throughout the process. These big multi-billion-dollar companies don't want any state regulation. They come into a community with their big city attorneys, throw their weight around with their intimidation tactics and threats and back our county level representatives into a corner because of our limited resources. It's all a ploy to strong arm their way to get what they want.

I volunteered to be on the Corning Planning Commission. If I'm truly honest, I had no idea what I was getting myself into. I am a Speech Language Pathologist. I knew nothing about zoning, planning commissions etc. What I did know is that Corning deserved better and that trying to get extraterritorial zoning for the City was the only way we could get protection for our booming town. I knew that if we didn't try, we would most definitely lose. With limited time, money, expertise and resources I realized very quickly that this was exactly why Mr. Anderson fights for local control. From our very first meeting, we were met with disgruntled farmers, multiple NextEra lawyers and representatives who scrutinized our every move. They were always very intimidating and quick to assure us that the project had already earned "vested interest" and that we were wasting our time. I am very confident that if our city officials had known what Nextera had envisioned for the 3 miles surrounding our town and if they were given adequate time, the decisions made regarding our planning commission would had been very different. Instead, we

made crucial mistakes and Nextera wins. And not only do they win, but they learn more tactics and are even stronger to take down their next victim.

We've now been living in an industrial wind park for approximately 6 months. I feel robbed, cheated, disheartened and literally sick each day as I spend time either outside or inside my home. It's something you will not understand until you live it. I would invite any of you to drive up anytime to sit on my deck and experience it firsthand. You see, my forever home is surrounded by turbines. North, South, East and West, I cannot look to any horizon and not see turbines in my view. What's worse, is that even inside my home, there is not one window I'm able to gaze out without seeing these monstrosities. At night, while we sit at the dinner table, or relax in either of our 2 living rooms, as we sit in our hot tub and even while lying in bed, we see the annoying red flashing lights every two seconds, every single night. The land we built on was farm ground. We don't have a fortress of trees to block the view like many of the established farmsteads of the participating landowners. For 12 years, we've not needed or wanted blinds in our home. It will cost us thousands of dollars to furnish our 33 windows with blinds. Participating landowners get to negotiate requests into their contracts. They get financial compensation for the nuisances the turbines may cause. To be honest, there really isn't enough money to compensate me for what has been robbed from me. Non-participating landowners get nothing. We get told to learn to live with it and preached to over and over about Landowner property rights.

Senate Bill 279 is vital for protecting ALL citizens living in un-zoned counties by requiring safe setbacks from property lines and residences. It considers the sound limitations and physical parameters about siting and much more. Please support SB 279 and be the voice for the non-participating landowners.

Thank you so much for your time.

Very sincerely,

Jessica Deters