

Testimony provided by

Commission Chairman Jerry Henning, Commissioner Fred Foley & Commissioner Jack Thimsech

In Opposition Senate Bill 279

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 279, which would place wind siting rules at the state level, rather than the county level where they have been since the beginning of the industry.

Siting large construction projects in a community or rural county is never easy, but that is what we do as a County Commission. That's our job. We have a Planning and Zoning board made up of volunteers that wrestle with the details of each development – wind or otherwise – and bring those recommendations to us, the Commissioners. This democratic process sometimes isn't easy – we are making decisions that impact our neighbors – but it does work, and no one has ever said that public service should be easy and non-controversial.

Kingman County has established setbacks for our wind turbines, height limitations, and blade length limitations. These were all set following hours of testimony and public input. And here in Kingman County, we've been very pleased with wind development and the economic development it brings. If Reno County decides they don't want a wind farm, that's great for us – just bring it right down the road to Kingman County.

But if you adopt state siting guidelines, then locals lose the ability to make decisions on our own. Every county is different, and I'd hate to get a standard that doesn't work for Kingman County. I can tell you, having one turbine per square mile doesn't work for Kingman County. Not a single wind farm in this county right now would have worked with that restriction. Or the setbacks. Those are better left at the local level.

Thank you and I'd stand for questions.