



Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Climate Action KC is a coalition made up of more than 100 local and state elected officials and leaders from significant civic, nonprofit, public and corporate organizations. We urge the Utilities Committee to **vote no on SB 279** on behalf of our constituents and community around the Kansas City metropolitan region. This bill, if passed, will restrict wind development in Kansas, putting the state at an economic disadvantage.

As a group dedicated to enacting proactive strategies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate resiliency while promoting the corresponding economic opportunity, Climate Action KC will always support further wind development in Kansas. Wind power is good for the Kansas economy. A new report, "Economic Impacts of Kansas Wind Energy," indicated Kansas counties and landowners with leases will receive \$1.51 Billion dollars in direct economic benefits for wind farms operating at the end of 2020.

Wind power has created 9,000 direct jobs and an additional 12,000 indirect jobs. Wind turbine service technician jobs are projected to be the fastest growing occupation in the US between 2019-2029. Climate Action KC supports this growing industry in order for Kansans to stay competitive in the national market, protect Kansas jobs.

Renewable energy provides an inexpensive and safe alternative to fossil fuels. Nearly every sector of clean energy technology has seen a rapid decline in prices that is expected to continue. At the same time, wind energy in Kansas has reduced our carbon emissions by 40 percent.

Climate Action KC supports reasonable regulation and development strategies with regards to clean energy technology to ensure the safety and well being of Kansans. However, this bill is overly restrictive and retroactive, putting Kansas at a disadvantage and jeopardizing the economic gains made to date.

Our coalition has been working closely with our investor-owned utility (IOU) company, Evergy Inc. For nearly three years, Climate Action KC has promoted our region's municipalities, industries, school districts, and universities to take advantage of Evergy's Renewables Direct Program. This program is designed to offset a percentage of energy usage through abundant wind energy, allowing users to benefit from renewable energy without being tied to the financial burden of development. Our experience with the Renewables Direct program has been positive, and we worry SB 279 could limit this program for wider, future use.

A diverse portfolio of reliable, renewable energy and storage will make Kansas more resilient and provide leadership and impact to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Unfortunately, the heavy, unnecessary regulation of SB 279 jeopardizes this resiliency..

Kansas is leading the nation in wind development and must remain competitive in this growing marketplace. Please vote no on SB 279.

Thank you,

Sincerely,  
Climate Action KC