

1/25/2023

**SB49 – Requiring new wind energy conversion systems to be constructed with light-mitigating technology systems**

**Disposition: Proponent**

**WRITTEN-ONLY Testimony**

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**REPRESENTING: SELF**

**PURPOSE: To help justify SB49 in relation to the High Banks Wind Project in Republic, Washington Counties.**

I am a non-signer living in the middle of the High Banks Wind Project in Republic County, I was part of the anti-group efforts to stop the High Banks/Nextera project, but after spending most of the year (2022) trying to stop or at least get some level of modifications (setbacks at least), we as non-signers and Anti-Millers (those outside the foot print, as labeled by our local newspaper), were left out, very much sacrificed, for the good of this project. What is the good – money in some land-owner pockets, many of who do not even live within the foot print as well as the county or state to experience the 235 towers for the small footprint defined, money the counties will receive thru pilot payments (not taxes), and money for Nextera, the lions share? There was absolutely no reference to the Green/Climate Agenda.

We, that live within the footprint, will have our living compromised from the health (sound, vibrations, flicker, flashing lights), safety, wildlife, and the destruction of our landscape/county with this extreme number of towers (208 towers vs. 176 homes in Republic County alone, the largest and tallest wind project in Kansas). None of the signing landowners or our county leaders, especially our commissioners for whatever reason, could care less about those of us that did not sign. I really thought commissioners were supposed to represent ALL citizens in the county.

The best thing that could have happened was to never to have approved this project; there has to be some state level guidelines to protect ALL citizens of our state vs. putting the responsibility to the counties where experience, knowledge, or bias/compromise does not exist. I believe all 3 are issues with the Republic County commissioners. Guidelines as far as setbacks, regulations, etc. have to be developed to stop companies like Nextera whose only goal is to take advantage of the current energy policies for their benefit to make money. In many respects, it is a land grab. Once built, Nextera is gone leaving a path of destruction. Our state should not be for sale for an incomplete, unreliable energy source that totally changes our state. Our farming/ranching depends on oil and gas, it cannot be replaced with wind and solar as proposed, it will not fill the gaps that are only getting wider.

But since the High Banks Wind Project has been approved and most likely no way to change, **SB49 is one compromise that will help with the flashing lights**, especially based on the size/number of towers in the High Banks Wind project in our area. It is our understanding that towers over 500' require 2 lights, making the lights twice as bad to put up with. It will also help with the folks outside the footprint who live in Republic County and neighbors to the north in Nebraska. These lights are not enjoyable, as mentioned, also contribute to the health issues, and will totally blank out our star filled skies. Putting

heavy curtains up to block out the flashing lights and the flicker during the day is such an undercut to our quality of life, forcing us to live in our houses.

My wife and I grew up in a City (Denver and Chicago), we are now living ½ mile outside of Cuba moving from Denver, for 22 years now. We moved here for several reasons, one was just getting out of the city to escape the noise, the chaos, the people, and the flashing lights. Yes, the city offers a lot of benefits that Republic County cannot supply, but bringing the noise, the lights, and the chaos without the benefits the city offers makes no sense, especially with high taxes we pay. It is no longer god's country. Why are many trying to destroy rural Kansas – maybe just move to a city instead?

Thank-You

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