



HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently Harvey County Administrator and President of the Kansas Logistics Park Development Authority. I am writing to you to express my deep concern regarding Kansas House Bill 2708.

A unique partnership between Harvey County, the City of Newton, and the Harvey County Economic Development Council has resulted in the creation of the Kansas Logistics Park located in the southeast corner of the City of Newton. Because of the confluence of rail and highway transportation opportunities at this location, the Kansas Logistics Park is ideally sited to serve companies that need to manufacture, store, or transport large component parts, finished product, or raw materials. To date, two major wind energy manufacturers—Tindall, Inc. and New Millenium, Inc.—have committed to locate in the KLP, invest over a combined \$90 million, and bring approximately 800 new jobs to our region. Companies in our region, including Siemens in Hutchinson, are investing heavily in the renewable energy segment of the economy.

We see innovation in renewable energy production as a significant variable in meeting our nation's energy needs and in growing the economy of the State of Kansas.

As the build-out in renewable energy gains traction in Kansas, a favorable and stable investment and development climate is imperative. The current Renewable Portfolio Standards have helped to stimulate such development. Any reduction in those standards—as proposed in HB 2708—will only result in greatly slowing the development of this vital industry in Kansas. I would urge your opposition to any such reductions.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Waltner

Harvey County Administrator and KLDPA President