Written Testimony submitted to the Senate Utilities Committee on SB 93

February 2, 2005

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Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments on Senate Bill 93 regarding eminent domain for wind energy development.

We appreciate concerns that many hold over the use of eminent domain. However, wind energy developers expect to negotiate leases with willing landowners for sites for wind power generators or turbines and we encourage that kind of arrangement to continue. Therefore, we support the provision of the bill that removes authority for use of eminent domain for siting of wind power generators and turbines.

We are concerned however, that SB93 selectively eliminates the power of eminent domain for electrical transmission lines only when they are used for wind energy. Wind energy is an emerging field with great potential economic and environmental benefits for Kansas. We oppose the provision to eliminate the use of eminent domain for wind energy transmission as long as other fuel types have the use of that power.