

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

We reside on a family farm in the Flint Hills of southern Marshall County, Kansas. It is a cow-calf operation our grandparents worked hard to establish and pass down to the next generation. We are very blessed to be able to pass this way of living down to our two children. Now our way of living is being threatened by Industrial Wind in the Irish Creek Wind Project. The 500-foot wind turbines have imposed on our family farm and property, having a negative effect on the animals we raise.

The Marshall County Commissioners would not commit to a setback for this project, thus putting the financial gain of a few over the safety, wellbeing, and livelihood of many of the rural residents. Our neighbors who live in zoned Pottawatomie County are not protected as the turbines in Marshall County are not under the protection of their county setback regulations. This bill will help protect rural residents that live in their forever homes, by creating setbacks, regardless of where in Kansas they live. This particular family is struggling to provide a safe living space in their home due to the noise of the turbines. They now have to rearrange their house to provide their children a space to sleep. According to the 2011 Nordex turbine safety manual in the case of a fire, no one is permitted within a radius of 1640 feet. So why would the county place turbines closer to nonparticipant's property lines and make it unsafe for them to use their own land? This bill would help solve this problem as well.

Our family is very fortunate that wind turbines cannot be placed west of our home, due to U.S. Government owned property. The federal government requires a three-mile setback, but there is no standardized setback for privately owned property. The U.S. Government is protected, but not U.S. Citizens.

The closest turbine to our home is 4,000 feet; there are nonparticipating landowners that have multiple turbines that are much closer to their forever homes. The turbines near our property range from roughly 1100 feet to 3000 feet away, still a major impact to our operations, as we use our property to its fullest potential and do not limit ourselves to just our home. The wind turbines are loud; the bright flashing red lights pollute the night sky. The measured DbA level at several of our pastures has topped well over 65 DbAs. Our County Commissioners assured us the turbines would be far enough away that the DbA levels would not be over 50 DbAs. This project when sited by our County Commissioners, only took into consideration our home, no consideration given to our outside work environment.

With no setbacks, our children's health is at jeopardy. In 2020, Gage County, Nebraska, our neighbors to the north, conducted an in-depth study of the health impacts of industrial wind turbines. The results of the study prompted Gage County to require a one-mile set back. The research discussed how the intrusive sounds and noise have adverse effect on our children's overall mental and physical health, harmfully affecting children's cardiovascular system, memory, language development and learning achievements. Our children are the future of rural America and the ability for this country to feed its people.

These turbines have had an intrusive effect on the quietness of our rural areas. The sound is like that of a plane that is continuously flying overhead and never lands. The noise and shadow flicker affects us everywhere we go on our properties. Our dog is consistently on the move day and night, as she cannot figure out where the noise is coming from, we are fearful that she will die at an early age, due to her body being over stimulated by the noise and pulsation from the turbines. I can only imagine

how this will affect our cattle, once they are moved to summer grass, in which 500-foot turbines surround a majority of our property.

According to research, hens and cattle living in the vicinity of wind farms suffer a wide range of pathologies when compared to control groups. Biologist Dr. Lynne Knuth has documented that animals raised on or near wind farms experience a lack of egg production, problems calving, spontaneous abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage. In addition, her research documents that animals raised near windfarms have weakened immune systems and are more susceptible to parasites and health issues. This is commonly known as Wind Turbine Syndrome and is caused by vibrations that can travel miles from wind turbines. The livelihood of our family is directly tied to agriculture and cattle production. If we build a feedlot or hog barn there are rules to follow and state agencies that monitor these actions. Wind energy should have to do the same and follow state rules, not bully around counties and small towns without zoning.

Since this project has gone into production, we started experiencing intermittent interruptions with our cell phones, internet and television; we never had any interruptions like this until the turbines arrived. With cell and internet services already being limited to rural areas, this is just another setback for rural residents.

The production tax credit provided at the federal level and the 10-year property tax abatement provided at the state level incentivizes wind energy. These tax incentives are costs paid by Kansas taxpayers. Industrial Wind is not a Kansas taxpayer. Tax abatements harm our public-school budgets, local property taxes are a key source of funding for our schools. When an out of state, multi-billion-dollar company is granted a tax abatement by our government, it is our school budgets that are left with the burden from this generosity. Industrial Wind does not construct massive wind farms because it is green energy; they construct them because of corporate greed. In the first month of production, the Irish Creek Wind Project has already been sold to a foreign country.

Industrial Wind is very comparable to a person smoking and then blowing smoke in your face.

Our children are the fourth generation to live on our farm. We appreciate that our grandparents worked so hard to help preserve a future for our family. We are now working hard to help preserve that future for our children. This bill would help protect their livelihoods and future. We ask that all industrial wind construction in the process of starting in the State of Kansas be stopped until a responsible statewide mandate is put in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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