

Dear Kansas Senators,

I am writing today in support of SB353. I believe that the health and safety of rural Kansas citizens relies heavily on safeguards that you will be able to put in place at the state level in regards to the construction and operation of industrial wind turbines. In the past year, I personally have watched a big wind company (NextEra) blow through Marshall county with no resistance from our 3 elected/appointed commissioners. From talking with the commissioners, I know that they believe there was no way they could stand up to this company rich with power and money from tax subsidies. And, as a result they did absolutely nothing to protect the rural citizens living in the footprint of the proposed Irish Creek Wind Project. I'd like to share my family's personal experience in trying to protect our health and safety and how we were totally ignored and denied that opportunity at the county level.

My name is Kathleen Fincham, and I live with my husband Mike and our 6 children in our home within the Irish Creek Wind Project footprint, southeast of Marysville, KS. We built this home in 2016, but we have lived in Center township of Marshall County for the past 23 years. Our family owns and operates Fincham Dairy just north of our home. We have chosen to homeschool our children. We're 14 years into this journey with another 12 years ahead of us, Lord willing. So, just for perspective, our family is home all day every day. We live here. We sleep here. We school here. We play here. We work here. Everything that we're working on, learning, researching, experimenting with, raising, farming, feeding...it's all here. So, the choices that have been made for our environment affect us at all times. Adding industrial wind turbines to our environment was never something that we thought we would have to consider as we built this home for our family. The effects of these wind turbines are not things that we are exposed to some of the time. We are exposed continually. During school, during work, during chore time, during play time, during sleeping time. All the time. Not an hour a day or 8 hours a day. All the hours of the day. And, I think that many of my neighbors within the footprint of this project are in similar situations. We're tied deeply to our land and homes. Our livelihood is right here. And you can't change the landscape and the conditions surrounding it without deeply affecting every aspect of our lives.

The Irish Creek Wind Project constructed 5 industrial wind turbines less than a mile from our home's foundation. As a mom, I am especially concerned about the effect those turbines will have on my family's health due to the combined acoustic noise level as well as the cumulative effect of their infrasound. My family has faced serious health issues in the past with my husband's diagnosis of stage iv colon cancer in 2012. We praise the Lord that his health was restored after years of surgeries, treatments, nutrition, and prayer. But I can tell you from experience that as soon as your health is compromised, it very quickly becomes the only thing that matters. By necessity, all the other things in your life will come to a stop, and your focus will necessarily be on restoring your health. When I was thrown into researching industrial wind turbines as I became aware of this project, I quickly learned that there was reason to be concerned that they consistently cause serious health issues for an important minority of individuals living in their shadow. These health risks have been found to affect 20% of those living near them. The studies that I found in my research pointed out that these health risks

could be greatly decreased if the wind turbines were not built near people. I began bringing this to the attention of our county commissioners and asking them to give the residents of Marshall County the needed space for health and safety. My requests were met with an early reply that I should wait until there was an official map presented by NextEra and an assurance that they planned to individually site each turbine 'properly', allowing affected non-participating landowners 30 days to bring questions, concerns, and official requests for turbines to be moved. I thought this was encouraging. However, when the official Irish Creek Wind map was presented at the commissioners' December 21, 2020 meeting. Residents were only given from December 22-January 3 to communicate their questions, concerns, and requests. This totaled 5 days that our county courthouse was even open for business. During that time I took the time to compile my research, ask questions, share concerns, and make requests for turbines to be moved for my family's health and safety. I never received a single reply from any of our county commissioners. My family and I were totally ignored and our requests were denied by default. Our commissioners did not individually site turbines, they just signed the agreements without listening to any of the families affected.

The Irish Creek Wind Project became operational in November 2021, and our family has already noticed unfavorable health effects. Personally, my ears ring constantly when they are operating. I have never had ringing in my ears before this in my 45 years of life. And, if I leave home to go to town, the ringing will quit within an hour. I'm thankful that this is the case so far, but will it become permanent? My 17 year old daughter has had greater effects than me. Her ears have not only had ringing, but also pressure. She says that they always feel like they need to pop, like on an airplane, due to the constant pressure changes the whooshing blades press into our home.

One of my biggest concerns that I have continued to research on my own involves my family's safety. Turbine 89 in the Irish Creek Wind Project is 2488 feet from my home's foundation, but it is only 550 feet from our property line. (The distance from our property line is my best estimation as I was never given an exact distance from county commissioners or attorney James Neeld even though I sent several requests for it during the official time window.) Not far over that property line, our family has a deer stand that my husband and kids love to hunt from. We also have a fishing pond that we have stocked and use frequently. It's a place to fish, picnic, kayak, and relax. However it's only about 750 feet from proposed turbine 89. My personal research into safety has found that safety manuals for Nordex wind turbines state that no one is to be within 1640 feet of a turbine at any time. The Vesta turbine manual even says, "Make sure that children do not stay by or play nearby the turbine. If necessary fence the foundation." My children do play frequently in this 'danger zone', even though I have never given my consent to turn it into a 'danger zone' and certainly not a fenced one. We have become a casualty of Trespass Zoning. Should we be banned from using our pond, hunting ground, farm ground, and wooded areas to hike through because our commissioners are allowing NextEra to choose a location on our neighbor's property for an industrial wind turbine that renders our property unusable? I have repeatedly requested the manufacturer's safety manual for the GE Industrial Wind Turbines that were constructed so close to my property line. To date, my request has been denied. Why would a mother's request to know if her children are safe to play on their own

property be denied? I can only assume that the information would line up with my assumption that they are not acting ethically and they are knowingly putting my family at risk of danger with their structure. Rural Kansans need the protection that regulation on turbine siting could provide.

During the discussion of the Irish Creek Wind Project, our elected officials went on record saying that the project had overwhelming support in our county. This lie may have sounded good to them, but it is definitely not the case. Of the 119 landowners in the footprint on Irish Creek, 34 signed leases and 85 did not. Of those 34, only 25% LIVE within the footprint. The other 75% do not. So that means 8 people who live in the affected area are in favor of them. And, I'm pretty sure that several of those 8 did not sign up the section of land their home is on. That is NOT overwhelming support!

If big wind companies are allowed to continue to blow into counties and take over the landscapes and lives of those currently living there, like they've accomplished in Marshall County, I foresee many lives harmed. The homes that dot the landscape of rural Kansas aren't just buildings. Is it a house filled with memories where grandma and grandpa live? Is it the bustling house of a growing family filled with kids, laundry, messes, laughter, storytime, bathtime, and bedtime? Is it a house filled with the dreams of newlyweds just starting their lives together? Those homes represent lives. A family like mine. A hard-working man. A mom who loves through serving and teaching. Teenagers who love to hang out with friends and play sports. One loves babysitting. One likes playing video games with his friends. One likes to cruise country roads in his truck. A 5-year-old who sings and dances her way through life. An 8-year-old with a creative mind who loves to write books about his animals. A 10-year-old that never fails to make time to smile and talk to his favorite retired people at church. Maybe because they carry candy in their purses? Maybe because God has given him a sensitive heart that notices people around him? So as I close out my plea, please know that your choices will affect individuals, not just random numbers of people. Would you please work and act to give us, residents of rural Kansas, the needed space for health and safety? We need your action through this bill.

Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Fincham