

Luke Pollock

Senate Utilities Committee

Proponent Testimony for SB353

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB353, I am a lifelong resident of rural Kansas. In the last twenty (20) years I have been simultaneously an Agricultural Producer, Small Business Owner/Operator, Property Owner, Small Community Promoter, volunteer fire and emergency medical services, and at various times involved in Chamber of Commerce leadership, community development, elected local (third class city) government. These roles have given me a broad perspective on the people and economics of our rural communities.

Reasonable State regulation of this massive industry, such as SB353, will give ALL Kansans impacted by the local construction of these industrial complexes, the opportunity to protect their own rights and safety. Small governments (such as Cities, Townships, and rural Counties) can often be overwhelmed by the financial, and political pressure associated with massive projects (such as industrial wind development), losing sight of the long term risks to their communities, or feeling helpless to influence the end result.

Lack of State protection for these small communities leaves the door open for exploitation by massive corporations to exploit our rural environment without regard for the health and safety of our greatest asset, the people who invest their lives and finances into our state. Our rural communities are experiencing a steady revival, fueled by young and middle aged people who value the ethics and environment of our rural communities. Due to my role in Emergency Medical Services I am very aware of the impact that good environmental conditions have on the overall health of individuals, as a Small Businessman, I am acutely aware of the negative financial impact that massive corporations can have on a community without proper local influence. SB353 provides a fair, and equitable means to allow for necessary energy development, while protecting the freedoms, rights and health of everyone impacted.

In closing, I thank you in advance for your careful consideration and support of SB353, and the protections provided therein for the local governments, and most importantly, the people of our great state.

Luke Pollock