

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

We support Senate Bill 478. Please help bring the night sky back to Kansas, one free from red blinking wind turbine lights. Whether you are for or against industrial wind production, I think we can all agree that the Kansas night sky is one of beauty. The red blinking lights have polluted our sky.

Our family farm in the Flint Hills of southern Marshall County, Kansas, directly in the footprint of the Irish Creek Wind Project. There are 108 turbines in our county, all 500 feet in size. The closest turbine to our home is 4,000 feet away and there are numerous turbines sited closer to our property lines, ranging roughly 100 feet to 3000 feet away.

Living in the footprint of a wind farm, the lights are aggressive and intrusive. When the turbine is positioned right, the red light reflects off our barn as if we have a flashing advertisement that goes off every second of the night. I know several people who drive down the Interstate and comment on how distracting and ugly the blinking lights are.

Not only do we live within the footprint of a wind farm, but we also live south of the Marshall Wind Farm located in northern Marshall County and are 20 miles west of the Solider Creek Wind Farm located in Nemaha County. We experience the blinking lights from three different farms, in which none of them are on the same frequency. On a clear night, it is nothing but a wave of blinking lights. There are rumors that another wind project is in the works to the area west of us in Washington and Republic Counties, with 650 foot tall turbines. In the near future, our family and our neighbors will be overran with red blinking lights. The thought of being surrounded by blinking lights is enough to make a person go mad.

There are approximately 4000 turbines located in the State of Kansas. With the obtainable Aircraft Detection Lighting System technology, there is no need for all of these blinking lights. The wind farm is going to argue about cost. The multi-billion dollar companies that are constructing wind farms in Kansas are being granted tax credits at both the federal and state levels. These tax incentives are costs paid by Kansas taxpayers. Industrial Wind is not a Kansas taxpayer. With the money they are saving in tax credits, the Aircraft Detection system is very doable.


According to an article that ran December 4, 2017 on Flatland digital magazine. "In 2017, Kansas earned more than \$12 million from PILOTS, but would have earned an estimated additional \$69.8 million in revenue if active wind farms paid property taxes instead of negotiate payments"

On March 1, 2022, Topeka News Station WIBW aired a news story over how Kansas ranked least beautiful state. When you travel through the state, it is hard not to miss the monstrous turbines that dot our countryside. Whether you are traveling south to North or East to West, you are bound to come across a cluster of wind turbines.

Please support Senate Bill 478; please help bring back the Kansas night sky one free from blinking red lights. Please do what is morally and ethically right.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin and Shenan Cline".

Austin and Shenan Cline