

January 25, 2023

SB 46-Requiring existing wind energy conversion systems to install light-mitigating technology systems.

Proponent

Oral In-Person

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Self and Kansans affected by current wind turbine lighting systems.

To: Senate Utilities Committee

Chairman Olson, Vice-Chairman Petersen, Ranking Minority Leader Francisco, and members of the Senate Utility Committee:

I am Lisa Moser, Representative for House District 106, and resident of Marshall County, where the Irish Creek wind farm was built just to the northwest of our family ranch in 2020. My husband and I have enjoyed ranching together for forty-one years. I am an outdoor enthusiast, and I have a profound appreciation for God's creation, earth, sea and sky and all that are in them. Today I will tell you how "wind" has surrounded us, and substantially altered the vista that I and my neighbors have enjoyed for years, as I stand in support SB 46. A result of this legislation will be to mitigate the constant nighttime blinking of the red lights atop the turbines.

In 2016, Marshall Wind Energy LLC, finished construction of a small wind farm approximately 20 miles due north of our headquarters. The wind turbines numbered thirty-six.

Fast forward to November 2020, when one hundred twenty turbines were powered up in the Soldier Creek Wind Farm around the thriving community of Corning in Nemaha County, approximately 30 miles due east of our home and ranch headquarters. The year 2021 saw the construction of the Irish Creek Wind Farm in Marshall County. The southeastern edge of the Irish Creek Wind Farm is a mere four miles from our home. Its one hundred nine turbines stretch north approximately nine miles and west about sixteen miles.

Sitting on the deck on the north side of our home, I see three wind farms at night. Red lights blink in various cadences, each wind farm having its own unique rhythm of lights. First learning about the Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems, (ADLS) from family in North Dakota and then doing research with the help of District 106 constituents these past two years, I am convinced that installing Aircraft Detection Lighting Systems technology on wind turbines would aid in the restoration of natural twilight and nocturnal beauty to all who currently experience the distraction of red, blinking lights in the evening and night sky. We see the towers all day every day. To restore the night sky, with the moon and the stars undisturbed in their beauty, would be a momentous gesture of good will by the wind companies and would benefit thousands of Kansans who live inside the footprint of and under the noticeable umbrella of all existing Kansas wind farms.

Pending approval of ADLS applications by the FAA, timely retrofitting of lighting systems on existing turbines should occur as soon as upgrade plans are finalized. Maintenance of said lighting systems should be the responsibility of the proprietary wind company. Wind farms have come online in different years, necessitating potentially different upgrading processes based on the age of the turbines. Initial upgrades to the most recently constructed wind farms will allow greater time to modify processes as needed for upgrading the older farms to ADLS technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Regards,

Lisa M. Moser