



Testimony Provided to the

House Tax Committee - March 18 & 19, 2015

Jeff Webner, Duke Energy Renewables

In Opposition to HB 2396 and HB 2401

Chairman Kleeb and members of the Committee,

On behalf of Duke Energy, I respectfully appear before you in opposition to HB 2396 and HB 2401.

- Duke Energy Renewables has two wind farms in the state. The wind farms are providing substantial revenue to 74 landowners. In fact, to date Duke Energy Renewables has paid over \$6.3M to Kansas landowners. These citizens and families are the constituents of many of the legislature and the Governor.
- A good population of these landowners were facing operation shut down or even selling of their family farm but because of the revenue our assets now provide them, they can support and even expand their ongoing operation.
- Our assets are providing significant revenue to several rural schools and counties that have not seen an uptick in investment in many years. For example, in the past two years, Duke Energy Renewables has provided \$419,000 to Spearville schools in Ford County, and over \$1M to Gray County.
- Under the present proposal, we are concerned that future investment in Kansas would be significantly reduced or even eliminated. Repeal of tax abatements and the imposition of an excise tax would have a direct impact on the ongoing businesses, and ultimately could affect the long term viability of the asset and the revenue stream that Kansas constituents are receiving and relying upon for their livelihoods.

I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.