



Testimony Provided to the

Senate Utilities Committee - March 10, 2015

Virinder Singh, Representing EDF Renewable Energy

In Opposition to S.B. 253

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of EDF Renewable Energy, I respectfully appear before you in opposition to S.B. 253.

EDF Renewable Energy has developed three wind farms adjacent to Spearville in Ford County, and will construct a new project in Sumner County. We also operate wind farms in the state. The projects provide substantial local economic development benefits. In the case of the third project in Ford County—Spearville 3—the payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and School Gift Agreements put approximately \$370,000 into County, Township, and School budgets in 2013 and will continue for the lifetime of the project or 30 years, whichever is longer. Spearville School District is planning on rebuilding a portion of their school with wind Gift/Donation monies EDF Renewable Energy as well as other companies.

In the case of our new project—Slate Creek in Sumner County—we will be employing 150 workers through the end of the year with substantial revenues accruing to local landowners, local contractors, and the local community.

Our presence in Kansas is no accident. Kansas is blessed with tremendous wind resources. Just as important, we are able to work well with local stakeholders in Ford County and Sumner County. Our operations and maintenance staff are a permanent presence in the area and members of the local community. Our investments are truly long-term and represent a deep commitment to the state.

We also want to emphasize the low cost of wind resources in Kansas. Today's wind projects in Kansas provide a fixed, long-term price at levels that frankly cannot be beat by any other newly-built electricity generation resource today. Kansas's energy future is an incredibly promising one, and one likely filled with local wind and local natural gas. We welcome a credible, fact-based discussion on Kansas's bright, diversified energy future and will bring verifiable facts to the discussion.

However, such a discussion is difficult to take place amid misinformation provided by entities not interested in wise governance. The Committee's opposition to S.B. 253 provides an important signal to industry in and outside of Kansas that the state's leadership is committed to its local, least-cost resources. We thank both state and local leadership for bringing Kansas to where it is today, and we look forward to working in the state further to bring both local economic development benefits and local ratepayer benefits over the long term.

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