

**Date:** January 31, 2023

**Bill:** SB86

**Type of Testimony:** Written Testimony

**Proponent**

**FROM:**

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**TO:** Senate Local Government Committee, State of Kansas

I have lived through some of the most frustrating and depressing times of my life which began when I learned the Irish Creek Wind LLC development was being considered around my home.

Most of the process is kept in secrecy until the developers have enough contracts with landowners to be able to use as their reason for involving local government officials, claiming they are representing the rights of landowners to do what they want with their land. This is true unless the property rights of some overshadow or ignore the property rights of others.

I support SB86 because I have witnessed the questionable tactics of some local elected officials which does appear to have benefit for themselves and others they know.

One such questionable action was a commissioner in Marshall County Kansas which voted to support a wind development, after which a close family member who is part of an accounting firm signed a wind lease agreement as an executor of an estate. I would believe such person would be receiving compensation for this service and thus means there was personal gain. In another situation, a city councilperson promoted the agreement to allow a wind developer to use the city streets, which meant their family would benefit from the wind company if the project materialized as they had indeed signed an agreement for turbine placement before the active discussions took place meaning they would gain from its approval.

An additional questionable action involved a commissioner who's re-election campaign treasurer was a person from a family which ended up with 17 or so turbines on their properties. That appears fishy to say the least.

My county is unzoned. This means wind developers are likely to find it easier to 'work the system' so to speak and part of that is to get the majority of the commissioners to see the developers promises as too beneficial to pass up. The majority by the way are just 2 of 3 elected officials. This bill will ensure decisions are more likely based upon the matter at hand, and not with the cloudiness of potential personal or family gain.

In addition, I suggest adding to this bill a phrase to also cover personal gain from ensuring their employer would benefit from a development they approve.

Thank you.