

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee on Energy and the Environment,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify on this critical issue.

I am firmly opposed to any repeal or relaxation of the current Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) for the State of Kansas. HB2241 makes no sense in light of the remarkable opportunity Kansas has to capitalize on its rich wind resource. Weakening the current RPS could deter development of electrical generation from wind and solar resources and the multitude of jobs in the manufacturing sector that benefit from such development.

Kansas has an incredible wind resource ... third in the nation. Like the natives who came before us, we are "a people of the south wind". Repealing our current RPS is counterproductive to the benefit that many rural landowners could gain from harnessing this energy. In the face of a withering drought, wind farm revenues are a welcome addition to shrinking agricultural incomes. Kansas is blessed with many wind rich regions where commercial development is possible. *Please do not deprive farmers and ranchers of the opportunity to capture this benefit.* As a rancher who has a wind farm on my property, I assure you that I look out my window at turbines and am grateful for their bounty.

Also noteworthy is the fact that wind power requires no water to generate power. Again, in the face of this drought, that is even more critical. Wind power is becoming the most practical and environmentally benign form of electrical generation that we have. Furthermore, improvements in efficiency have allowed wind power to become highly cost-competitive.

According to a report issued by the U.S. Energy Information Administration in February of last year, most states have Renewable Portfolio Standards. "30 States and the District of Columbia had enforceable RPS or other mandated renewable capacity policies, as of January 2012. In addition, seven States had voluntary goals for renewable generation." Even coal mining states like West Virginia have an RPS.

It would be a shame to turn our backs on this resource at a critical time when our state could use all the economic help we can get. Please do not pass HB2241.

Respectfully submitted by ...

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