



Kansans for Clean Energy



For Senate Utilities, Opponent Testimony on SB 82, February 5th, 2013

Chairman Apple and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Felix Revello, I'm a resident of Larned, and I represent **Kansans for Clean Energy**, a broad coalition of agricultural, energy, environmental and faith-based groups from across our state. We thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to Senate Bill 82, which both delays our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in target year requirements and provides an **unclear** exemption to such requirements by showing of "good cause." We view this bill as literally a "set-back" for the RPS and its proven success in bringing wide-ranging economic, social, and environmental benefits to Kansans.

The RPS serves as a beacon for new, clean energy development for Kansas. This stable energy policy along with Kansas' ranking as the state with the 2nd highest wind resources, has helped attract new investments from turbine makers, wind developers and transmission companies. Siemens announced their decision to invest 50 million dollars in Hutchinson KS the **same** day Governor Parkinson announced the RPS. Kansas wind farms have created over **13,000** jobs and in 2012, **\$3 billion dollars** were invested in Kansas by the wind industry. Donation agreements with communities hosting wind farms top **\$10 million dollars** annually and landowners hosting wind turbines received more than **\$13 million dollars** a year.

The RPS is a key economic driver of renewable energy which continues to revive local industry and communities; complements our farming and ranching sectors and helps to secure plentiful, affordable, reliable energy while improving our energy export market. Renewable energy provides an important hedge against price volatility while utilizing a clean energy natural resource. It is clear that most Kansans are proud of our state's commitment to a positive energy policy that brings jobs and revenue to our state, preserving our water supplies, without compromising our citizens' health or climate.

Integrating wind energy has not raised utility costs for Kansans significantly. The KCC found that the RPS added only 0.7-1.5% to the average customer's utility bill, which disproves the idea that renewable energy is expensive. In fact, the KCC reports that new wind is cheaper than new coal and even, by some measures, new natural gas. Our major utilities have already satisfied their current RPS requirements and are well on their way to satisfying the 2016 and 2020 requirements. So when we have seen so many positive impacts, why would we want to slow down our state's momentum?

By delaying the RPS requirements, this legislature would be sending the message that Kansas is **not as serious** as it once was about attracting new business and jobs, about improving our health and environmental quality, and about adding a plentiful, dependable and inexpensive energy resource that our children and grandchildren can rely on. SB 82 also unnecessarily **complicates** our energy policy by introducing the spurious premise of *excessive costs* when we have seen no significant cost increases related to renewable energy. Above all, with SB 82, Kansas would be the first state in the country to go back on their original RPS commitment.



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When we look at the full range of consequences of Senate Bill 82, we have to ask the committee:

Do we really want to put our economic and environmental progress in jeopardy? Do we really want to legislate against an important part of Kansas' economic and environmental future? Do we really want to say that plentiful, cheap, clean renewable energy is not part of our state's future? Do we want to create *regulatory uncertainty*, deterring business from considering Kansas a safe place to invest because government is no longer a reliable partner? Are we going to sit out the clean energy boom, while our neighbors like Texas and Iowa cash in?

In conclusion: We are obligated to pass on to future generations of Kansans a healthier environment and more promising economy, just as past generations did for us. **The RPS works. There is neither need nor time for delay.** When it comes to the RPS, we can take some good old fashioned, sensible advice: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

This ends my testimony. Thank you for listening. I stand for questions.

Sincerely,

Kansans for Clean Energy

Our coalition includes:

- Climate and Energy Project
- Kansas Farmers Union
- Kansas Rural Center
- Kansas Interfaith Power & Light
- Kansas Natural Resource Council
- Kansas Sierra Club