



Testimony Provided to the
Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee - March 16, 2015
Katie McClain, Invenergy
In Opposition to S.B. 257

Chairman Donovan, Vice-Chairman Tyson, Ranking Member Holland and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully appear before you in opposition to S.B. 257. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 257. My name is Katie McClain and I am the Director of Public Affairs for Invenergy. Invenergy develops, owns, and operates power generation facilities in North America and Europe. We have a proven track record in establishing and maintaining longstanding, profitable relationships with utilities, suppliers, and the communities in which our projects are located.

Invenergy has developed over 10,000 MW of utility-scale renewable and natural gas-fueled power generation facilities in the United States, Canada, and Europe. This includes more than 6,000 MW of projects in operation, with more than 1,900 MW under contract or in construction. We are North America's largest independent wind power generation company.

Invenergy is in opposition of S.B. 257 – the repeal of the property tax exemption for renewable energy resources.

Invenergy is currently developing a 200 MW facility in Ellis County, Kansas – we have spent in excess of \$13,500,000 in development costs, including nearly \$600,000 in land payments to landowners. During the construction period, we estimate to employ 200-300 construction workers. Overall, Invenergy will invest more than \$250 million in the project. The proposed change in legislation is both disruptive to our business and concerning to our lenders and investors who previously felt comfortable investing long term in the state of Kansas.

Invenergy has multiple other early stage developments in the state and hoped the Buckeye project would be the first of many large investments in the state of Kansas. Kansas is a great place to build wind farms- with a strong wind resource and the right policies in place, Kansas sends a signal to the wind industry that it is open for business.

The wind industry needs certainty and repealing property tax exemption not only increases the cost of doing business in the State of Kansas, but also creates uncertainty in the marketplace. Businesses and the investment community need certainty to make investment decisions. Not only would this bill create uncertainty going forward but given the retroactive nature will also show that the State is willing to pass laws that negatively impact existing contracts, leaving the investment community fearful of doing long term business in Kansas.