

*Testimony Provided to the*  
**Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee - March 16, 2015**  
*Martha McClelland, Ellis County Commissioner*  
**In Opposition to S.B. 257**

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

*I respectfully oppose S.B. 257.* Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.B. 257. My name is Martha McClelland and I am an Ellis County Commissioner. I am a land-owner in the new Buckeye Wind Project in Ellis County. I am a life-long resident of Ellis County and recently was elected to the office of County Commissioner in the First District. I ran for this office in order to help our county prosper and become a better place for our young people to raise their families. The Invenergy Company is bringing hope for the future of Ellis County citizens. We all use energy and the renewables are one of the ways for our country to become self-sustaining. I am opposed to S.B. 257 – the repeal of the property tax exemption for renewable energy resources.

There is a wind farm under construction in Ellis County - a 200 MW facility. The developer of the project, Invenergy, has spent in excess of \$13,500,000 in development costs, including nearly \$600,000 in land payments to landowners. During the construction period, they estimate to employ 200-300 construction workers. Overall, Invenergy will invest more than \$250 million in the project.

The benefits to Ellis County will be jobs for people maintaining the wind turbines in this project. The land-owners will also benefit through increased income. The construction will employ 250-300 persons which at this time is needed sorely because of the falling oil prices. These construction workers are spending their income in Ellis County for food, shelter, & fuel. Construction expenses are generating sales tax. The landowners jointly will be receiving over one million dollars in payments. They will be paying federal and state taxes on this money. This wind farm project will help our county & state prosper.

I am very supportive of this project because I feel it will make our county prosper. We have a first rate medical facility, a 4 yr university and are the hub of Northwest Kansas. This is just one more way to make it a better place to live.

Without companies like Invenergy making large investments in counties like Ellis we wouldn't have the sales tax money that this project generates or the PILOT payments will help the county. Passing the SB 257 will deter companies from making investments in Kansas. This will be devastating to the Kansas Economy. Kansas Wind production ranks third in the nation. Why not, use it to help the economy of our state???