



KANSAS CITY FIELD DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
18350 ANTIOCH ROAD, SUITE 103
OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS 66211
913.402.1020 phone
877.402.1020 toll free
913.402.1028 fax

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RE: Written Testimony on SB 253

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee,

EDP Renewables North America LLC ("EDPR") appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony to the Senate Utilities Committee regarding SB 253. EDPR stands respectfully in opposition of this bill.

EDPR is the fourth largest wind energy company in the United States and third largest in the world. EDPR develops, constructs, owns, and operates wind farms throughout North America; with over 300 employees, 10 offices, and 29 wind farms across the United States, EDPR operates close to 3,900 MW of wind farms including a substantial investment in Kansas.

EDPR owns and operates the 201 MW Meridian Way Wind Farm in Cloud County, selling the electricity to both Westar Energy and The Empire District Electric Company through power purchase agreements. This electricity contributes toward both utilities' Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements. EDPR has invested over \$340 million in Meridian Way and has entered into a gift agreement worth \$5.5 million with the Cloud County Board of County Commissioners. Construction of Meridian Way created 285 local construction jobs, and 19 Kansans are employed at the facility today. Additionally, local landowners receive substantial royalty payments for the duration of the project.

EDPR has also entered into a power purchase agreement with Kansas City Power and Light for 200 MW from EDPR's Ad Astra Wind Farm in Coffey County. The project begins construction this month and energy delivery to KCPL will commence in 2016. Like Meridian Way, Ad Astra will bring well-paying jobs, significant local investment, and reliable payments to landowners to the local area. EDPR and the Coffey County Board of County Commissioners have entered into a gift agreement worth more than \$20 million.

EDPR maintains its Kansas development pipeline from our Overland Park Development Office. EDPR values its presence in Kansas and its relationships with landowners, community leaders, state officials, and power customers, and we look forward to maintaining a strong presence in the state.

As the Committee knows, wind energy is cost-competitive with other forms of new electricity generation, and it provides a hedge against the unpredictable fuel and environmental compliance costs associated with conventional generation. The utilities have demonstrated its value to their portfolios and their ratepayers. However, the benefits wind brings to Kansas reach far beyond its proven ability to keep electricity rates low. It uses no water in its operation, preserving the precious resource for agriculture and human consumption. It creates jobs and provides billions of dollars in economic investment across the state, particularly in rural communities. And it costs the state nothing. The RPS has proven itself to be sound public policy, one that has diversified the state's economy, created well-paying jobs, and attracted new enterprises to the state. Staying the course on the RPS will allow Kansas to continue creating those jobs and continue attracting substantial private investment.

Maintaining the RPS in Kansas demonstrates the state's commitment to energy security, local and rural economic development, and the interests of its ratepayers. SB 253 would undermine the benefits wind energy has brought to Kansans, introduce unnecessary regulatory uncertainty, and expose ratepayers to additional electricity price volatility risk. For these reasons, EDPR respectfully opposes SB 253.

Rorik F. Peterson, Development Project Manager
EDP Renewables North America LLC