



TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Rob Olson, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities

FROM: Whitney Damron
On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County

RE: SB 253 – Repeal of Renewable Portfolio Standards

DATE: March 10, 2015

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, Kansas, I am respectfully submitting these comments in opposition to SB 253.

In December, 2014, the Commission adopted the following statement as part of their 2015 legislative priorities:

The Board is supportive of current Renewable Portfolio Standards, which have incentivized billions of dollars of investment in Kansas, including the EDP Renewables Waverly Wind Project for KCP&L in Coffey County. Coffey County is home to the Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant as well as the Lyon-Coffey Electric Cooperative. Our citizens, our state and our country rely on energy produced from a variety of sources, including nuclear, coal, natural gas and increasingly more, wind energy. The State's RPS has created tremendous opportunities for investment in our state and in particular, rural Kansas. The state should not enact legislation that would serve to drive investment to other states with a more receptive state energy investment policy. And while critics argue the state should not create an unlevelled playing field for any form of energy, the fact of the matter is any and all forms of energy have and will continue to be incentivized through past, present and future tax policy. The current incentives for wind energy are consistent with incentives provided to other forms of energy by both the State of Kansas and the Federal Government (e.g., machinery and equipment, fossil fuel exploration, transmission line and power plant construction, etc.).

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Coffey County, we thank you for your attention to this statement.

WBD