

Testimony on Senate Bill 253
Senate Utilities Committee
March 10, 2015
Harvey County Council of Governments
Bernie Koch

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 253 on behalf of the Harvey County Council of Governments. That organization includes Harvey County and the seven cities in the county: Newton, Hesston, Halstead, North Newton, Sedgwick, Burrton, and Walton.

The Council opposes elimination of the Kansas renewable energy standards. The wind energy industry is in the process of creating many new jobs in Harvey County at the new Kansas Logistics Park.

Recovering from the Recession, Harvey County worked hard to attract the Tindall Corporation.

The Tindall Corporation plans to construct a new manufacturing facility dedicated to the manufacture of concrete wind tower base systems, the Atlas CTB. The facility will be the largest of six the company owns and operates. It will comprise 150,000 to 200,000 square feet.

The capital investment is \$66 million. Tindall expects to employ 200 people by the end of the first year of production and 400 by the end of year three. They have already made some investments, having purchased over 225 acres of property in 2010 on which they pay property taxes.

Kansas has already spent money on infrastructure for these investments. The Intersection of K-15 and I-135 was widened to accommodate the large trucks associated with the development at a cost of \$14 million.

This bill sends a signal that these kinds of businesses and the jobs they bring are not welcome in Kansas.

It's a total of 400 jobs in a county with a workforce of about 18,000. So, we are talking about growing the workforce by 2.2%. However, these are manufacturing jobs. Every manufacturing job creates an additional two to five other jobs in the community. So we are really talking about increasing employment in the county somewhere between 4.4% and 11%.

On behalf of the Harvey County Council of Governments, please reject Senate Bill 253.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bernie Koch Government Relations – berniekoch@yahoo.com – phone: 316-207-3380