

To: Senate Committee on Utilities, Robert Olson, Chairman

From: Ryan Flickner, Senior Director of Public Policy

Date: March 10, 2015

Re: **SB 253-** an act providing for a sunset to the renewable energy standards act

My name is Ryan Flickner, Senior Director of Public Policy for the Kansas Farm Bureau. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony opposing SB 253, the sunset of the renewable energy standards act.

KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through 105 county Farm Bureau Associations. Our members farm and ranch, and make their homes in communities across the state and benefit each day from the development our vast renewable energy the surrounds us.

We have and continue to support the need for the development of a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of renewable energy and the use of tax credits and other incentives to achieve this plan.

In addition, we support the expansion of the RPS up to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025. Also, we have strong policy adopted at the national level that supports using renewable standards to stimulate electricity generation from a variety of sources. This policy was adopted by the 50 State Farm Bureaus and sends a strong message of support for this concept.

There are numerous benefits to maintaining the RPS at the current rate. One example is the growth of the wind energy development within in our state. It has created numerous opportunities for production/construction jobs; it has produced a revenue stream for our members as well as other landowners around the state; it has developed maintenance jobs at wind farms; and it has shaped our state into being a leader in the renewable energy industry.

We understand the legislatures' desire to repeal the "mandate" but hope that alternative policies that encourage the development of renewable resources will be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. KFB stands ready to assist the committee in the discussion of this important issue.