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Kansas Legislature,

I would have liked to be present this week to deliver testimony in support of Kansas renewable energy but because of other commitments I am sending my written comments.

Cloud County Community College (CCCC) is in support of the wind industry. CCCC is the only college in Kansas offering an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Wind Energy Technology (WET). Our wind students are highly trained and have a skill set which meets the demand of wind farms across the nation. Because of the high quality of WET students, wind farms from Kansas contact our program whenever a wind energy position comes open. We currently have a 100% employment rate for all the WET students who apply for wind energy wind technician positions. This high demand will continue to be available as long as wind energy is supported by the residents, utilities, and our legislators of Kansas. If Kansas lawmakers are truly intent on promoting and expanding employment opportunities, the wind energy industry is a great place to create high wage employment.

It is hard to imagine why the wind industry keeps coming under fire from political interest critics each year when so many Kansas residents support the wind industry. Kansas will easily be able to meet the Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements legislated by Kansas by the 2020 deadline. Wind energy is clean, the fuel is delivered free of charge, there is no fluctuation in the cost of the fuel, Kansas has the second best wind resource in the US, and it is proven to be a very affordable way to produce electrical energy.

The RPS legislation passed by Kansas Lawmakers is based on rated-capacity and not total energy produced. This fact makes the requirement approximately half of what it seems. Kansas wind farms operate at 50% or less capacity factor so the requirement is much closer to a 10% total renewable energy production requirement. Other states in the US have legislation requiring a percentage of the total retail electric sales.

Renewable energies also benefit Kansans in the area of water management. The present 1729 Kansas wind turbines save the State an estimated 2,053,000,000 gallons of water annually, when compared to fossil fuel energy generation. Additionally, \$13 million in annual lease payment are paid out to landowners hosting wind turbines on their property.

Wind, water management, employment opportunities, economic benefits equals affordable renewable energy. Thank you for your time and please retain the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard.

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