

To: Kansas Senate Utilities Committee
Proponent for Senate Bill No. 279

No one doubts the validity of the Pythagorean Theorem, a fundamental principle that guides many mathematic solutions, but in the wind energy world, many intelligent people seem to cast doubt on the bedrock principle of economics, the law of supply and demand. I can find numerous websites that indicate support for the idea wind energy development has negligible impact on property values, and numerous websites that state precisely the opposite. Not surprisingly, those concluding negligible impact are normally funded by the wind energy industry.

For the typical Kansan who lives in an area where wind energy has invaded his/her view of the surrounding environment, I suspect that person shares the belief that if fewer people are interested in buying his/her home and property with a wind turbine backdrop, that property's value has diminished. That's not just the bedrock principle of economics; it's good old-fashioned Kansas common sense.

Friday evening, March 5, 2021, members of my family traveled from our home in Linn County, Kansas to Hennessey, Oklahoma, located in Kingfisher County. This took us through the Prairie Ridge Industrial Wind Project in Allen County, whose flashing red lights we can see from our property fifteen miles to the east. Even more dramatically, as we traveled south of Wichita into Oklahoma as day shifted to night, it was as though we had entered an unpopulated city, though some rural yard lights could be seen. The night sky with no visible stars, blinked red on both sides of the I-35 corridor for a continuous 90 minutes. On our return trip Sunday, we drove north from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and saw the continuing blight resulting from the Neosho Ridge Project between Parsons and Chanute as its eventual 139 turbines are in both construction and operation modes. This project spans roughly 170 square miles between the two cities and extends from US-59 to US-169.

One thing my travels the past several years through southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma has not revealed is new home construction in the vicinity of industrial wind energy development. I'm guessing any construction that does occur would involve participating landowners already living in the project's foot print. The non-participants are simply victims without a voice. Hopefully, this legislation will give future non-participants the protection they deserve and that will preserve their property's value.

Respectfully,

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