

Senator Mike Thompson

Chair Utilities Committee

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I understand a bill, KSA SB279 KS, is being considered with regards to setback distance of wind turbines and homes. I am praying that you will put a halt to wind turbines that have not started, but soon to start, until this bill can be discussed, passed, etc. My husband and I live in Marshall County where Nextera is set to start a 108 turbine farm within the next month. If this starts, we will have a turbine 2500 feet from our front door. Our county commissioners told us they would protect the nonparticipants, instead our county has no setbacks in place. Our neighbors to the East, Nemaha County, have been talking about how bad the lights are at night and the constant noise. They have a 3000 feet setback. We farm for a living with a cow/calf operation. We are outside a lot. With the turbines, we will not even be able to escape to our home to seek relief. Will we have flashing lights in our bedroom, living room and dining room all day and night? How will we escape from this? Possibly light blocking blinds would help but why in the world should I have to live with that. I love letting the light in my house as it is my favorite thing about my home. I don't want to live in a cave and I shouldn't have to. This has the possibility of ruining our home and our lives. I am all for people being allowed to do what they want with their land, but not when it affects my home, my land. We have lived here for 38 years with lots invested in our house. Are we going to have to move? Will we even be able to sell our house? Who would want flashing red lights all night, every night for the rest of their days?

How will this affect our cell phones and internet? I just purchased expensive boosters for both our cell phone and internet. I now have really good cell phone and internet. Wind turbines can affect cell phone and internet. Will we have these services going forward? That will also be a huge issue if our utility services are useless. Will Nextera take care of this if it happens? I doubt it.

As I stated earlier, we have a cow/calf operation and are outside all hours of the day and night from January to the end of April watching and checking on cows. I understand the turbines can throw ice. Nextera says it can only throw it a quarter of a mile (the size of a small car-straight from the Nextera rep) but I have heard other reports that they can throw ice up to a mile, but rare. Will we be safe outside at night during the winter months? Will our livestock be safe outside?

Once again, I am pleading for any help in this matter. We asked the county commissioners if they could move the turbine that is out my front door to the north or south to lessen the impact on our home. No response. We are not the only homeowner that is having issues with turbines being too close with this project. We are not fans of wind farms but I can live with them as long as they are not on top of me, which these will be.

Thank you for your time and I pray if this bill is passed, it will not be too late for those of us in Marshall County. You also have our permission to use this letter as public testimony.

Sincerely,

Gary and Susan Koch

Marshall Co. Kansas