

Dear Senator Mike Thompson,

My name is Dan Schmidt, I live in rural Marshall County just outside of Blue Rapids. I am writing to you today to provide written testimony and support for SB 279. I want it to be known that I am not anti-wind or pro-wind, but pro-placement for wind turbines. I believe that wind development has the opportunity to provide benefit to Kansans not only in the form of electricity, but as income to landowners in the form of lease agreements.

With that being said, 100% of my income is from production agriculture. I farm and ranch near Blue Rapids where I also raise 3 wonderful kids, Callie, Spencer and Lexi. In animal agriculture in Kansas producers that utilize a concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) type system are required to stay a set distance away from various things, one of which is neighboring homes. Kansas government has departments and agencies that help producers follow these regulations that not only help our citizens and communities, but also help the producers. It is a win-win for Kansas Agriculture.

When it comes to the wind development industry in Kansas, our state government is extremely lacking in guidance and regulations that would also be a win-win for landowners, homeowners, and wind developers in our great state. I am pleased to see that SB 279 has established some parameters that would help protect non-participating neighboring home and landowners while still protecting the opportunity for participating landowners to benefit from lease agreements with wind developers.

There is also a lot of gray area when it comes to the discussion of decommissioning the wind turbines. SB 279 addresses this issue as well in requiring an independent qualified person to assess the costs and plan to decommission the turbines. It would be financially devastating to a landowner or to a county to cover any additional costs associated with this process. I would not want to see the next generation of Kansans have to pay that price if this generation gets it wrong up front.

I would like to thank you and the committee for working on this bill. I really think it is something that will provide more guidance and understanding for property owners and county commissions alike. I want this to be a win-win for Kansas and wind energy much like it has been for Kansas agriculture.

Thank you for your time,

Dan Schmidt