

My name is Gretchen Deay and my husband and I live in rural LaCygne. I would like to testify in favor of Senate Bill No. 279 because it addresses many of the problems that have been experienced by landowners and citizens since the State's doors were opened to the international industrial wind industry.

Locally elected county officials have been left to negotiate terms and PILOTs against a well-funded and sophisticated industry rabid to gain access to our landscape to harvest tax credits by erecting industrial scale wind towers (without paying the local property taxes required in every other state!)

Senate Bill No. 279 will address many of the lessons we have learned the hard way. Every provision proposed within is the result of harms already experienced and suffered by citizens and local governments, even participating landowners.

Without these protections, contracts are one-sided; decommissioning is neither addressed nor funded, citizens, livestock, and wildlife are subjected to health dangers that have never been tolerated from any other industrial project in Kansas.

Costs and risks have been shirked by the industry, and shouldered by citizens and taxpayers who are already bearing increased energy costs because of these very same players. The whole scheme is unconscionable.

The benefits of allowing wind developers to erect turbines in the State are inadequate for the harm they cause. Our lack of experience has left us ill equipped to protect our community and our state. Traditionally, developers of industrial power facilities (fossil fuel and nuclear) have been required to comply with regulations that protect citizens and the natural resources we are privileged to enjoy. This bill introduces minimal regulation to this industry. It is frankly the least our government should be providing for Kansas citizens facing this invasive development from international industrial wind installations.

I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 279.

Thank you,
Gretchen Deay