

March 18, 2021

Re: Proponent Testimony SB279

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My family and I reside in the Flint Hills of southern Marshall County, Kansas. We are very fortunate to live on our family's farm, a farm that our grandparents worked hard to establish and pass down to the next generation. Along with my wife and our two children Dorothy (5) and Carter (2), we run a cow-calf operation. We are very blessed to be able to pass this way of living down to our children. Our way of living is being threatened by Industrial Wind. We live in the footprint for the proposed Irish Creek Wind Project. NextEra Energy Resources a Florida based company has proposed to install 108, 500-foot wind turbines in our area.

This out of state company has shown no regards for our community's natural resources, safety and wellbeing or property rights.

Southern Marshall County is made of several natural springs, one of which is over 200 years old. NextEra has proposed to place a turbine approximately 2500 feet from where the spring comes out of the side of the hill, not where the water originates, which would be much closer to the turbine. When confronted to use an alternate turbine, so not to disrupt the flow of the spring NextEra had no concerns, even though they could not guarantee there would be no effect to the mature spring.

The Flint Hills of Marshall County is also part of the natural tall grass prairie, there is less than 4% of tall grass prairie left in existence. My family and I are committed to helping preserve Kansas' unique prairie ecosystem, this is one reason why my wife and I are committed to teaching our children how to be good stewards to the land. NextEra is not committed to preserving Kansas' prairies; this is evident by the site map for the Irish Creek Wind Project.

The Marshall County Commissioners would not commit to a setback. By doing this they put the financial gain of some over the safety, wellbeing, and livelihood of so many more rural residents. Our neighbors who live in zoned, Pottawatomie County are not protected since the turbines are in Marshall County and the protection of their county setback does not cross county lines. This bill will help these residents and other rural residents that live in their forever homes just as if they had a setback like a town or city. According to the 2011 Nordex turbine safety manual in the case of a fire no one is permitted within a radius of 1640ft. So why would the county place turbines closer to non-participants property lines and make it unsafe for them to use their own land? This bill would help solve this problem as well.

With no setbacks, we worry about our children's health. Earlier last year Gage County, Nebraska our neighbors to the north, conducted an in-depth study of the health impacts of industrial wind turbines, prompting them to require a one-mile set back. Part of the research completed by Gage County, discussed how noise from wind turbines can affect our children's well-being. Noise levels affect children differently making it harder for them to concentrate; intrusive sounds and noise have adverse effect on our children's overall mental and physical health, harmfully

affecting children's cardiovascular system, memory, language development and learning achievements. These turbines will have an intrusive effect on the quietness of our rural areas. Our quietness will go from hearing the bullfrogs croak in the distance to having a window air conditioner humming constantly 24/7, with no way to get away from it. In today's society haven't our kids gone through enough that they do not need the stress of living next to an industrial wind turbine.

Our children are very young, we are in our mid-thirties and have never had to experience what several of these people have endured while living near industrial wind farms. We cannot imagine allowing this to happen to our children. We need to protect our kids, if we do not protect our youth and industrial wind takes over our countryside, we have failed and will burden our kids with lifelong health issues. The setbacks in this bill would help offset these health concerns.

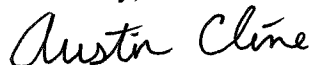
According to research, hens and cattle living in the vicinity of wind farms suffer a wide range of pathologies when compared to control groups. Biologist Dr. Lynne Knuth has documented that animals raised on or near wind farms experience a lack of egg production, problems calving, spontaneous abortion, stillbirth and miscarriage. In addition, her research documents that animals raised near windfarms have weakened immune systems and are more susceptible to parasites and health issues. This is commonly known as Wind Turbine Syndrome and is caused by vibrations that can travel miles from wind turbines. The livelihood of our family is directly tied to agriculture and cattle production. If we build a feedlot or hog barn there are rules to follow and state agencies that monitor these actions. Wind energy should have to do the same and follow state rules, not bully around counties and small towns without zoning.

Wind industry robs Peter to pay Paul. It relies on others, as it is not independent or self-sustaining. The production tax credit provided at the federal level and the 10-year property tax abatement provided at the state level incentivizes wind energy. These tax incentives are costs shared by taxpayers. NextEra is not a Kansas Tax Payer. Tax abatements harm our public-school budgets, local property taxes are a key source of funding for our schools. When an out of state, multi-billion-dollar company is granted a tax abatement by our government it is our school budgets that are left with the burden from this generosity.

Our children are the fourth generation to live on our farm. This bill would help protect their livelihoods and future. We ask that all industrial wind construction in the process of starting in the State of Kansas be stopped until a responsible state wide mandate is put in place.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Austin Cline".

Austin Cline