



Senate Utilities Committee:

On behalf of Young Professionals of Reno County, I am writing in opposition of SB 279. This bill uses incorrect and uncorroborated information to stifle wind energy development in Kansas. Studies have proven Kansas has significantly benefitted economically and environmentally from wind energy, with a 40% reduction in carbon emissions and \$1.51 billion received as a direct economic benefit by counties and landowners leasing land for windfarms.

Wind turbine service technician jobs are projected to be the fastest growing occupation in the United States over the next eight years. The construction and operation of windfarms has already created 9,000 jobs in Kansas, with another 12,000 created through the industry in general.

Those in opposition voice concerns pertaining to property taxes and public safety, though they are unsubstantiated. The science, the facts, and the numbers say wind energy is good for Kansas. SB 279 contains measures designed to greatly reduce the number of turbines allowed to be constructed and largely limits eligible locations for windfarms. SB 279 is not about protecting Kansas and its residents, it is about hindering its chance at growth in favor of other interests, but not the interests of Kansans.

Thank you,

Lucas Singleton

*Voice Team Chair*

*Young Professionals of Reno County*