



*Opponent Testimony Provided to the
Senate Utilities Committee
March 23, 2021*

Invenergy
In Opposition to Senate Bill 279

Good afternoon Mister Chairman, Vice-Chair and Ranking Member,

Invenergy is a leading, privately held developer and operator of clean energy projects. Since 2015, Invenergy has developed wind power generation in Kansas totaling 200 Megawatts and nearly \$4 million invested in local communities. Invenergy continues to have renewable energy generation interests throughout the State, and we are proud to be a part of local economic development in Kansas. However, Senate Bill 279 will force Invenergy to spend its resources elsewhere.

The development of wind power generation facilities is not only an essential part of creating a resilient electric grid, but also an essential part of local economic development. Invenergy has invested nearly \$4 million in landowner payments and property taxes and created 12 permanent local jobs. These investments directly support landowners, increase local job opportunities, and help fund higher quality schools and public services. Local construction jobs and permanent jobs spur indirect economic benefits to local businesses such as restaurants, lodging, shopping, and other services.

Senate Bill 279, establishing the wind generation permit and property protection act, will all but halt development of wind power generation facilities in Kansas and all subsequent community benefits. Invenergy is poised to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in new wind development in the state in the years to come, but Senate Bill 279 would force Invenergy to invest in Colorado, Nebraska, or Oklahoma's communities instead, preventing communities in Kansas from receiving much needed funding for school districts, community colleges, fire departments, libraries, and other public services, as well as hundreds of local jobs.

Kansas is home to some of the richest sources of wind power, and this Bill will prevent communities from fully benefitting from such an asset. Invenergy strongly discourages the Senate Utilities Committee from supporting Senate Bill 279 in halting wind power generation in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Nichole Goodman
Director, Government Affairs