Vote No on SB 279

I am writing to urge the Kansas Legislature to oppose the restrictive proposals outlined in SB 279 and instead to support increasing incentives for renewable energy production in Kansas. This is a crucial moment in the history of our planet and we can ill afford to postpone addressing the looming disasters of climate change.

In the Drawdown initiative, an international project where specialists analyze possible ways to reverse the accumulation of warming gasses in Earth's atmosphere, wind energy is projected to be a major player in addressing the biggest challenge in human history. *Drawdown* provides a message grounded in science, the same human discipline that has provided ready electricity for civilization since 1880. Will we not heed the overwhelming warnings of trained researchers today?

In many locations, wind energy is already competitive with or even less expensive than coal-generated energy. If Kansas legislators are concerned about the future for the state's coal industry, why not offer options for those workers, supporting transitions to new, sustainable energy companies or other industries that offer drawdown possibilities. There are dozens of positive steps to consider.

According to the analysis of 70 Fellows in the Drawdown initiative from 22 different countries, the wind energy potential of only three states is enough to meet the electricity demand of the entire country, coast to coast. Those three state? Kansas (!), North Dakota, and Texas. Why would we shackle our state's opportunity to become a leader into the future?

The intermittent quality of wind is one obstacle people refer to. Sometimes the wind hardly blows at all. At other times, it's strong enough to make up for the slow times. The challenge to spread the energy produced during peak production times over the hours and seasons when demand exceeds the production is the topic of researchers at our universities. One such place is Kansas State University's Tim Taylor Department of Chemical Engineering. Researchers in Manhattan are in the midst of developing safe and efficient chemical systems of storage using hydrolysis and reverse hydrolysis. Safe because it makes use of water and its component elements. Efficient because the space involved is minimal compared to batteries. It is possible that systems like this will be available for utility-size storage in just a few years.

SB 279 appears to be an attempt to tighten manacles around the developing wind industry at a time when we need to bolster its development. Please vote no and stop this dangerous bill before it can do harm to our state's people, businesses, wildlife, and future.

Thank you!

Ann Fell, Winfield, Kansas