



**Senate Utilities Committee**

**Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 353**

**Submitted by J. Kent Eckles**

**Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Kent Eckles on behalf of the Kansas Chamber. We appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony for the record in opposition to SB 353, which we believe sets a dangerous precedent when developing energy projects, not just for the renewable energy sector, but more traditional energy sources as well.

Senate Bill 353 would establish very restrictive guidelines for the siting and development of wind energy projects across the state. Today, these companies work closely with landowners and local government officials through lengthy, detailed negotiations and planning processes to develop projects across Kansas. Counties where these investments take place utilize industry recognized standards for site placement that establish safe distances from facilities in their communities. SB 353 places stringent and unnecessary guidelines on wind energy investment. Ultimately, our biggest concern is the negative impact on the ability for a private business to enter into a contract agreement with landowners.

The Kansas Chamber supports a regulatory climate in Kansas that promotes a healthy business environment and instills regulatory certainty. Burdensome and unnecessary state regulations only stifle business investments. We support all sources of energy provided government does not create a more favorable climate for some sources over others and believe all energy sources should be able to compete freely on the open market.

Our organization supports the most appropriate, least restrictive method of regulation. SB 353 will add both cost and burdensome guidelines that will take additional time and resources. Those costs will ultimately be passed through to energy consumers.

In closing, we respectfully ask you to oppose SB 353.