



**KANSAS**  
ASSOCIATION OF  
**COUNTIES**

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Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbine Lighting  
October 27, 2022

Kansas Association of Counties

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the Select Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) to offer testimony on wind energy development, wind turbine lighting, and the impact on Kansas counties.

Before looking at the issue of wind turbine lighting, it is important to note that KAC believes the issue of whether or not to have wind turbines is a primarily local issue. Local leaders, such as county commissioners are best positioned to listen to and respond to the needs of their local communities on an issue like wind turbines. Some communities support wind energy development. Others do not. A “one-size-fits-all” approach is ineffective for an issue like this in a state as large and with communities as different as those we find in Kansas. I will also note that some counties in Kansas have placed moratoriums on wind turbine development, or prohibited this type of development in certain areas with zoning regulations. Again, these are local decisions tied specifically to where and how these developments will exist in the local communities.

In zoned counties, county zoning and planning departments or boards are very involved in the process. The final decision rests with the county commission following recommendations by the planning or zoning board, as any development in a zoned county is subject to zoning regulations. In un-zoned counties, the decisions fall to the county commissioners with advice from their county counselor, road supervisor, or other county officials. In both situations, there are hearings and opportunities to be heard for the public, the developer and any other interested parties.

Specifically to the issue of lighting, this issue is one facet of the wind turbine debate that is not a local issue. Lighting on wind turbines exists for safety purposes. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) provides these standards to increase the visibility of wind turbines for pilots. The standards that counties adopt reflect this, requiring that lighting adhere to minimum FAA standards. It should be noted that even in situations where a county had no standards for wind turbine lighting, FAA requirements would still be in effect.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, as well as the rest of the information presented.

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