

Proponent Testimony SB 312 - Rep. Carrie Barth, District 5

Good Morning, Chairman McGinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority Francisco & Honorable Members of the Senate Local Government Committee,

I am Representative Carrie Barth for District 5 representing four counties: Douglas, Franklin, Miami, and Johnson.



Last year when I ran for office, I did not anticipate energy being such a huge MESS. What I have found is we have little to no protections in place, as property owners can be affected negatively on so many levels when it comes to energy. I have attended multiple community educational meetings, county planning meetings, county commissioner meetings, and have had people reach out to me

across my district along with other counties across the state of Kansas for a total of 31 counties. They all are dealing, or have dealt with issues related to energy projects that come into their county with commercial/industrial scale wind and solar and large transmission lines. Currently there is the Blackberry line in the works going from Wolfcreek in Burlington across Kansas to Missouri that is a 345 Kilovolt (kv) line. I've included a picture in my written testimony or you can google a 345 KV line to see the magnitude of these transmission lines. Put yourself in the shoes of the land owner who will have to live under or near these lines. This makes it easier to understand why there are concerns with being able to use their property as intended, along with their safety and health risks.

This is probably a good time for me to mention my budget amendment I introduced that was a “Study on health and environment effects of commercial or industrial transmission lines, wind turbines, solar arrays and hydrogen hubs.” This would have been a first-of-its-kind comprehensive study. The study successfully passed the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Committee; however, it did not make it out of the House Appropriations Budget Committee. As a result of this proposed study, I have had people across Kansas reach out to me in favor of doing the study, as well as, three other states MI, OH, & ME. I know these things take time, awareness, education, collaboration, and it is my goal to help Kansans find resolution to one of the biggest problems in the state. I’d be happy to share that study with you, if you would like for me to send it to you.

I have a major problem with our Federal tax dollars being handed out to “renewable energy” projects that benefit companies that do not benefit Kansans. Why are we in Kansas continually allowing ourselves to be taken advantage of?

SB 312 is a start with adding a layer of approval as it relates to EMINENT DOMAIN. Ideally, I would like for energy projects that will send energy outside of the state, to not be able to take advantage of people and land, the people we all represent. I am so proud of my district and Kansans who stand for the land.

Thank you for having this hearing and for addressing eminent domain in Kansas.

Carrie Barth

Kansas State Representative, House District 5

Baldwin City, KS