

Date: January 25, 2023

Bill: SB 49

Type of Testimony: Written-only

Proponent for SB49

From: Kelli Childs, State of Kansas taxpayer and Registered Voter

Phone number: 913-904-2807

TO: Senate Utilities Committee, State of Kansas

My family and I live in rural Republic County, Kansas. We dedicated much time and effort in 2022 working to get protections put in place for non-participants in regards to the High Banks Wind Project.

Unfortunately, no sufficient protections were put in place so non-participants' private property and lives will be encroached on with shadow flicker, sound, and infrasound and possibly red blinking nights every night for up to 90 years from now. Construction is now underway, and this project will have **200+ wind turbines** – each turbine being 500-580 ft tall (this is nearly the height of the Gateway Arch). I will repeat 200+ wind turbines. One third of our county is, as we speak, getting turned from a peaceful, rural agricultural community into an industrial zone. We are very saddened that an out-of-state entity came in here and was able to zone a third of our county an industrial zone.

My family and I support SB49 with the following amendments:

- 1) Lines 16/17 take out “within 24 months after receipt.....such approval.” Replace with “operations of wind energy conversion systems can commence operations once the light-mitigating technology systems are operational.”
- 2) Remove section (2) lines 18-27
  - a. All businesses have risks and we cannot continue to cater to entities of certain industries, especially out-of-state huge corporations. Any business owner has to deal with supply chain and market constraints and sometimes the business suffers when they are faced with these. Our personal business faces these issues but we do not go ask our government officials to bail us out and give us waivers.

Our Founding Fathers founded this nation on the basis of common law which includes the following: 1) do all you have agreed to do and 2) do not encroach on other persons or their property. Additionally common law upholds the basis that “All men are created equal” – meaning no special exemptions or privileges. This bill with the proposed amendments would a be a step in the right direction to upholding common law, which our country was founded on and what you, as elected officials, have the privilege to ensure gets upheld.

My husband and I moved back here to the family farm (northwest of Belleville) for the peaceful, rural living and now we are going to be living within a few miles of an industrial development. Currently we have clear, beautiful nights where we enjoy the peacefulness of the dark skies and are able to fully appreciate God’s beautiful handiwork of his firmament by observing the stars and planets with our kids. There would be many other families across our county and this state that would like to continue to have that same enjoyment as well. We have been told that our project is supposed to get light-mitigating system but there is nothing requiring them to ensure this happens. This bill with the amendments proposed would ensure our peaceful nights here in rural Kansas are protected from industrial wind development. Please support SB49 with the proposed amendments and any future bills that would protect non-participants from the encroachment of wind and solar developments on their private property.

Regards,  
Kelli Childs