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Proponent Testimony for SB46

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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Chair Robert Olson and members of the committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB46, which I believe is an excellent bill; necessary to bring relief for the citizens that have to view the continually flashing red lights from dusk till dawn from turbines across the state.

Of all the issues of an industrial wind project, there is one issue that should be wholly embraced and this is the requirement of radar-activated lighting systems for these projects.

I live in Labette County located in Southeast Kansas (SEK), thankfully we do not have an Industrial Wind Project but we are still affected by the lighting from the Neosho Ridge Wind Development in Neosho County to our north.

From a location in Labette County on State highway 101 near Edna Kansas what you see in the daylight will dramatically change when the sun goes down. The sky is then lit by one great long line of flashing red lights that run for miles, and they blink as if in unison continually every few seconds, every day, from dusk till dawn. That's because from this view you are literally seeing many of the 139 turbines' with 2 navigational lights blinking from the Neosho Ridge Wind Project. This takes places in various places in SEK. This creates a **hypnotic effect and distracted driving at night** and the **loss of tranquility when trying to enjoy outside on one's own property or driving through the county!**



What is concerning is this view is nearly an entire county away from the Apex's Neosho Ridge Wind Development some 23 miles away!

What the Neosho County Commissioners allowed when they okayed the Apex's wind development and did not require a radar-activated lighting system they made a decision that not only affected their county but one that resulted in affecting those living in surrounding counties around them. To our west, these lights can be seen miles, across Montgomery County, and into Allen Counties, across Labette County and to our east, into Crawford and Cherokee County, to our south to the Oklahoma line.

Of course different areas, one sees different views, some are not as bad. In some areas, they cause driving distractions, issues in homes and ruin the tranquility of the land. Take for instance State highway 169 near Thayer, Kansas because the Neosho County turbines are close to the highway it gives a creepy feeling driving during the day, but after sundown, it is distracting with the lighting on the turbines flashing.

Previous testimony before this committee by Brian Coover stated that Apex chose not to use radar-activated lighting when developing the Neosho Ridge Wind turbines, as an excuse for the cost, but it was disclosed to you that the amount was minimal in comparison to the cost of that development. Don't let that be a reason for you not supporting the bill. As what price do you put on doing what is best for area residents of the State of Kansas?

These lights are disturbing the neighboring residents of many counties; especially anyone living within miles of the turbines that are forced to view them is subject to the loss of tranquility from the constant blinking red lights. They are even causing dissatisfaction with those who support wind energy. Absolutely they negatively impact the beauty of our rural areas according to a study thousands of bats are killed by wind turbines every year and that 'study indicates that the use of red light signals could have fatal consequences for them as this appears to attract them to operating wind.

Also in Aug 29, 2018 — Scientists found the winged creatures are naturally **drawn** to sources of **red light** – an attraction **that** can confuse them on migration routes.

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com> › thous...

The lighting on the turbines is a must and what is excellent about SB 46 is the Radar Activated Lighting system will continue to protect the aircraft and at the same time alleviate the annoyances that certain citizens are forced to view every day, from dusk till dawn and will save the lives of bats and winged creatures.

Please support the passage and vote yes on Senate Bill 46, It is a good neighbor bill that will bring relief for the citizens across the state. Especially to us in Southeast Kansas it will restore to us the loss of tranquility, the lighting has caused to our homes rural and small town communities.

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