



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

300 SW 8th Avenue, Suite 300 • Topeka, KS 66603
785-272-2585 • Fax 785-272-3585 • www.kansascounties.org

Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
Neutral Testimony for HB 2273 • February 19, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding of House Bill 2273, which would establish requirements for wind generation permitting. This bill addresses important topics surrounding wind power and KAC is grateful to the committee that we are able to provide testimony on perspectives to consider when reviewing this bill.

The Kansas Association of Counties is a strong believer in local control. The communities that make up the state of Kansas are unique. Those unique characteristics require a uniquely local touch in managing the issues that each of our communities face. As such, the Kansas Association of Counties as a general rule opposes any preemption of local control. The Association of Counties would encourage the committee to look closely at this legislation and avoid taking power away from our local county officials, as they are best positioned to address the needs of their citizens.

The Kansas Association of Counties understands the benefit of a general process with regard to wind turbines and wind power in general. The Kansas Association of Counties also recognizes the benefits that wind turbines have brought to some areas of the state, and does not seek to disrupt areas that believe they can benefit from an expansion of wind power from realizing those benefits. The Association of Counties would encourage the committee to examine this legislation to ensure that regions are able to expand wind power if that is in the best interests of that region and its citizens.

The Kansas Association of Counties recognizes and believes in individual property rights for individual property owners, while also understanding the need to protect the public good and safety of adjoining property owners. KAC would ask the committee to review whether this legislation properly weighs the rights of each individual property owner, as well as the good of the community at large, and take steps to ensure that the rights of each are protected.

For any regulation to work, it must be right-sized. It must be strong enough to protect, while being flexible enough to allow for growth. While KAC does not take a position on the current legislation, KAC would encourage the committee to consider how to ensure that any

regulations within this legislation are right-sized, as well as considering the unique aspects of the different communities here in Kansas.

Looking at the current legislation, the Kansas Association of Counties would encourage the legislators to consider the county roads and highways. During construction of wind generation facilities, lots of heavy equipment must be hauled to the site. There should be some mechanism for protecting the roads, or paying to restore the roads if there is damage caused by that heavy equipment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Jay Hall

Kansas Association of Counties