

To The Members of the Energy, Utility, and Telecommunications Committee:

Over the last few weeks, I have thought upon what I would say in this letter to you. Numerous hours and days have been spent researching and talking with many people. The internet offers so much disproving and proving the benefits of industrial wind turbines that I honestly doubt there is any bits of information and research on either side of the argument that could probably sway your final decision on this that you have not already heard and/or read. So why am I writing this letter to you?

Our daughter Mia, who is now 14, was adopted from Kazakhstan when she was 15 months old. When we met her at 13 months old, she did not even have the strength to sit up on her own, she was so frail. The doctors there had labeled her as deaf and mute, not realizing that her main health issue was a severe thyroid problem.

Since then, it has been an uphill battle for Mia. The progress she has made with love, stability, medication, medical care has been amazing. But coming home to all of that was not the end of her battles. When she was five years old, she suffered three very, bad seizures within an hour and was life-flighted to Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

But she isn't the only child who will suffer like that. Her neurologist told us that 1 in 10 children will suffer at least one seizure. Most of the time, you do not know they even occur but then you will have the children like Mia who are hit so hard that they have to be life-flighted for emergency care. There are more than 10 children just with a few mile radius of our home.

And now because of the possibility of industrial wind turbines, our daughter's wellbeing is at risk of a seizure again. The best I can find in my research is that there is only a minimal risk to Mia and other children from having a seizure because of shadow flicker. Not everyone dies from a seizure, not even most. But how am I or any parent willing to allow even a minimal risk to our children especially now knowing all that we do know? Non-epileptic seizures can occur in any age group with the newborn to preteen years being the most susceptible to them. The seizures can be brought on by flickering light, stress, lack of sleep and depression... all known to occur to those living near industrial wind turbines. Again, while not everyone will have that happen to them... some will and some of those will be children which includes our daughter, Mia.

There is so much more I could say about this all... turbine set backs, construction projections, jobs, economic impact, participation agreements, safety plans related to fire, emergency helicopter transport, rural landscape changes, infrasound, health effects, environmental concerns, and property values.

So again, why am I writing you this letter when you have heard all the arguments for and against industrial wind turbines? Why have I told the very brief story of our little Mia who would most likely not be alive today had we not adopted her from Kazakhstan because of her health at that time?

I am telling you all this because I do not want to lose another child. We have known what it is like to have our child ripped from this earth and our arms. There is no greater pain. It's been 14.5 years since we lost our son. Not a day goes by that the pain is not there... not an hour, minute or second. It never changes. It never gets easier. To hold your child, to hear their voice, feel their breath and then it's gone. You never get to see them grow, to hear them tell you "I love you" again, fight and play with their brother... You never get to see who they could become. You learn to control the pain, to hide it... it becomes a part of you are just like breathing. I would not wish this pain of having to bury your own child on anyone on this earth. Even now, tears are flowing from my eyes as I do my best to type this out. It has taken me hours to write what should only take a few minutes because I have to remember the pain of our son, of Mia's previous seizures and the fear that grows in my heart each day for what the future will hold for our daughter and other children.

I do not expect you to understand unless you have suffered what we have. I do ask that you take one moment... just one and close your eyes right now and imagine yourself in our shoes... suffering with what we did with our little boy and daughter. Then ask yourself this... are you willing to even at a minimal risk, risk the life of your child, grandchild, our child or any child when there can be other alternatives to where these industrial wind turbines are placed on this earth? We are not.

Kristy and Brian Schweitzer

Brown County Kansas