

TO: House Energy, Utilities Committee

SUBJECT: HB 2273 must not pass

FROM: Joe Spease, CEO WindSoHy LLC

DATE: February 19, 2019

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for considering my testimony.

HB 2273 will do great harm to the economy of Kansas. The outrageous setback distances proposed in this bill will make it impossible for many projects to be built. That is a mistake for those who care about rural revitalization, keeping taxes low in Kansas, the new job potential from wind projects, and many other economic benefits from wind projects in western Kansas.

This bill must not pass. Wind project developers care a great deal about working with the communities where they build their wind projects. Wind project developers in Kansas have a great track record of working in partnership with members of the communities near their projects. Project developers in Kansas understand that creating annoying problems in the communities where they build will end their businesses. But HB 2273 proposes setback distances that do more to kill the future of wind projects than provide any reasonable regulations.

There have been few complaints about setback distances in the state. In fact, western Kansas people have welcomed wind project development. There is no need for the punitive setback regulations proposed in HB 2273.

There is a potential for tens of billions of dollars in wind project development in western Kansas. It is irresponsible to propose setback distances that would threaten that potential economic development.

If you care about the future of western Kansas, do not pass HB 2273.

Thank you for considering my testimony.