

March 18, 2021

Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee
Proponent Testimony SB279

I am currently serving on the McPherson County Zoning Board in McPherson County, KS.

In previous years, prior to me becoming a member of the zoning board, the zoning board and subsequently the McPherson County Commissioners had approved Special Use Regulations for Commercial Wind Energy Projects.

Most of the requirements approved were especially detrimental to neighboring landowners and in my opinion to the lease holders themselves.

Most of the members on the zoning board and also the county commissioners were very uneducated and very ill prepared to deal with the representatives from the wind energy companies.

It was felt in the community that the wind energy companies were taking advantage of and bullying the lease holders, both prospective and current, zoning board members and the county commissioners. As a side note one of the county commissioners had previously signed leases with a commercial wind energy company and should have recused himself from any of the proceedings. (Which he did not do)

I became involved with the zoning board as I felt our community was not being treated fairly.

After attending several zoning board meetings it became apparent that the other members were only interested in pleasing the wind energy companies and the current lease holders. It was very evident that they were not interested at all in what would be best for the entire county.

I was also shocked that the other board members were not at all familiar with all the detrimental effects of wind turbines. In addition they were all very closed minded and not interested in exploring what the negative effects are to not only the lease holder but to neighboring land owners.

I do not believe that each individual county is equipped to deal with the wind energy companies and the bevy of attorneys they have at their disposal. In my county it became very ugly and neighbors were pitted against neighbors. I also believe that the current ability of wind turbines to create clean energy is a farce and that they will never decrease energy cost. It will in fact increase energy costs for the end user and the wind energy companies will reap all the rewards.

I would like to see wind turbines kept out of our rural areas. Perhaps the wind energy companies can develop ways to place turbines in metropolitan areas. If the State of Kansas is determined to have wind turbines then, I believe that the State of Kansas should have regulations in place that will benefit everyone in this state and not just the Commercial Wind Energy Companies and all the money that leads to them.

Thank you,

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