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March 18, 2021

Dear Senators:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce to urge your rejection of SB 279. The regulations listed in this bill, including the setback requirements, would be harmful to the continued growth of our wind energy assets and economic development opportunities in Kansas. Our state has benefitted from 9,000 direct jobs during construction and operation and another 12,000 indirect and induced jobs thanks to this growing industry. Locally, Siemens Gamesa employs nearly 300 people in Reno County and this plant relies on a stable and growing commercial wind farm industry in order to continue to have a market for their products.

SB 279 threatens to disrupt the growth and sustainability of the wind industry in Kansas and tarnish our state's reputation for fostering a pro-business culture. Kansas would be short sighted to put onerous regulations in place that would not only harm one of our primary growth sectors but could also negatively impact other manufacturing and agricultural operations.

With these concerns in mind, I urge you to defeat SB 279.

Sincerely,



Debra Teufel  
President/CEO

**connect. grow. play.**