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To: Kansas State Senate Utilities Committee
300 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504

Dear Members of the Kansas Senate Utilities Committee,

I'm writing to express opposition to the [Wind generation permit and property protection act \(SB 279\)](#) under your consideration on behalf of Environment America.

Kansas has enjoyed rapid growth in wind energy production over the last decade. Kansas saw a six-fold growth in annual wind power generation between 2010 and 2019, making it one of the top U.S. states for wind energy progress. Kansas wind turbines generated 21,558 GWh of electricity in 2019 -- enough to power 2 million homes with clean, renewable energy.¹

Wind power has been hugely beneficial to Kansans, and will continue to be in the years to come so long as it has the opportunity to continue to grow:

- Continuing to use more clean and renewable energy resources such as wind power is a crucial strategy in reducing carbon pollution. The Fourth National Climate Assessment details expected impacts of climate change in the Southern Great Plains region, including strains on food, energy and water resources; increasing temperatures; and more extreme weather events including draughts, floods and wildfires.² Kansas wind energy reduces carbon pollution both in Kansas and in surrounding states that purchase Kansas wind power, thereby helping to prevent the worst impacts of global warming.
- Clean, renewable resources like wind power also improve the health of Kansans and other fellow Americans. Continuing to produce more wind energy prevents hazardous air and water pollution and protects Kansas from the hazards of extracting, transporting and processing dangerous fuels.
- Finally, wind turbines deliver increasingly affordable, reliable energy to customers in Kansas and in neighboring states, while also supporting Kansas's energy economy.

¹ Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, *Renewables on the Rise: A Decade of Progress Toward a Clean Energy Future*. Web: <https://environmentamerica.org/feature/ame/renewables-rise-2020>.

² *Fourth National Climate Assessment*, Chapter 23: Southern Great Plains. Web: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/23/>.

Provisions in the Wind generation permit and property protection act (SB 279) include some of the most restrictive and prescriptive regulations for wind energy production in the United States, and would hold back continued progress towards a healthier, cleaner Kansas. Concerning requirements that this bill would enact include:

- Retroactive construction and interconnection rules, which would jeopardize projects with leases signed as far back as 10 years ago,
- Unnecessarily restrictive setback requirements from public and private properties as well as a lack of protections from potentially prohibitive local zoning ordinances,
- Minimum distances between turbines that could threaten the efficiency and financial viability of future projects,
- Extraordinarily extensive and specific application requirements, including an assessment of shadow flicker for buildings and roadways within a minimum of one mile of any turbines and extensive risk assessments, which could increase development costs.

Together, these requirements threaten wind energy development in Kansas, when state leaders should instead be working to take greater advantage of this vast clean and renewable energy resource.

I respectfully ask that you vote no on SB 279 for a cleaner, healthier future for Kansas.

Thank you,

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