



*Opponent Testimony Provided to the
Senate Utilities Committee
March 22, 2021*

Gina Mace, Public Policy & Institutional Affairs Manager – North Central Region, Enel North America

In Opposition to Senate Bill 279

Good afternoon Mister Chairman, Vice-Chair and Ranking Member,

Enel North America, through its subsidiary, Enel Green Power, is a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy projects and currently has the largest wind capacity of any wind operator in the state of Kansas.

Enel Green Power opposes the passage of SB 279. SB 279 will undermine Kansas' commitment to affordable and reliable energy, resulting in a loss of jobs and economic opportunity. Wind generation is not intended to be a substitute for other generation, but instead plays an important role in diversifying the generation fleet and reducing the exposure to volatile fuel supply costs while meeting the electricity needs of Kansans.

Enel Green Power operates six wind power plants in Kansas, representing over \$2.7 billion in total investment and has created 210 full-time, permanent jobs in the state. Enel Green Power is invested in Kansas and committed to the long-term health and viability of the communities where it operates. This support comes in the form of supporting native Tallgrass Prairie habitat from invasive species and supporting local education and scholarship programs.

Enel Green Power's most recent 199 MW addition to the Cimarron Bend wind farm in Clark County, Kansas resulted in over 250 temporary jobs and 5-10 permanent operations and maintenance positions. The \$281.4 million expansion is estimated to generate an additional \$49 million in lease payments to local landowners and over \$18 million in new revenue to fund schools and public services over its lifetime. That is in addition to existing local landowner payments of \$12.5M (2020).

Enel Green Power will provide more than \$144M in PILOT payments over a 20-year period to the counties that host its wind projects. Over \$36.5M has already been paid through PILOT payments, and another \$107.5M will be paid over the next 20 years. The projected \$107.5M in PILOT payments assumes no new development in the state, even though Enel Green Power is pursuing an active growth strategy in the US. If SB 279 passes, it will cause Enel, and companies

like it, to consider investing in other communities in other states, leaving these communities with less economic opportunities than they have today.

It is imperative to consider all the costs and benefits of SB 279, which will result in lost economic opportunity to Kansas and its communities. Kansas leaders had the foresight to make the state a leader for wind power. If SB 279 passes, landowners, counties, construction workers, businesses, and schools will not continue to reap the benefit of a vibrant and diverse energy system.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge your opposition to SB 279.