

Greetings Chair Masterson and Committee Members,

My name is Mattie Bell and I am a resident of Lawrence, KS. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 279. I am a huge fan of wind energy, the jobs it creates, and the incredible reduction in carbon emissions it is responsible for. Kansas is rich with sun and wind. We could be leaders in clean energy production, which would continue to create jobs and stimulate our economy. Not only has COVID-19 hit our economy, but we were already struggling due to the economic plan of past governors. Clean energy is a growing sector and will only continue to grow more. We should be taking the opportunity to capitalize on this, rather than pass legislation that would limit businesses and job creation.

Not to mention, the climate crisis demands that we transition to clean energy. SB 279 limits our ability to transition to a green economy, transition everyday working class people to green jobs, and transition our energy sources to green sources like wind. Voting to pass SB 279 would be voting against Kansans and against the future of our state. Wind energy is only one way to address the climate crisis, but it is a great start. In Kansas, it has already created 9,000 direct jobs from construction and installation in Kansas, and 12,000 indirect jobs. The benefit to wind energy is clear. SB 279 would heavily restrict development of wind energy in the state, which as I already stated, would hurt us Kansans.

Thank you for your time.

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