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Senate Utilities Committee
Proponent Testimony for SB353

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB353. I will keep this brief, but I do have a few thoughts to share regarding this extremely important and well-structured bill that places all Kansans at the forefront of our state's future

For those who advocate for Industrial Wind Energy to pervade throughout our great state, I can understand why you might feel this bill sets a rather high bar to clear. But really, why should it have ever been so easy? Early in the process, when our state's leadership was so eager to be "cutting edge," it seems a few shortcuts were taken. However, when it comes to altering the lives of your neighbors, many of whom were here long before you, maybe it shouldn't be left to a few international corporations to decide our future's outcome without taking some necessary, attainable steps that would preempt some very serious issues.

The message this bill delivers is "Think about and consider your neighbors and fellow citizens." And, put yourself in their shoes. I am an individual and state's rights guy, but there are some positives to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This act sets parameters to follow so that we tread lightly on each other and our precious resources. With regard to the development of wind energy in our state, have we truly followed those principles.