

Written Proponent Testimony

SB 353 – Relating to wind generation facilities; construction and setback requirements; health and safety requirements

Presented to the Senate Utilities Committee
Chairman Mike Thompson

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022

By
Dennis Hedke

Chairman Thompson, Vice-Chair Petersen, Ranking Member Francisco, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Proponent Testimony related to SB 353.

This proposed legislation presents opportunities to establish long-needed guidelines related to the construction of Industrial Wind Turbines in the State of Kansas. Individuals within multiple state agencies are sharing consistent violations of statutes by Developers-and are discouraged from disclosing these violations for fear of job security. Similar accounts are being noted at county and local municipalities.

They have come to realize the wrongdoing after substantial protests resisting lax requirements or improper guidance for siting industrial turbines. They have also come to realize the many principled and exhaustive studies that have reached scientific, medical and other conclusions regarding overall citizen well-being, which reveal serious health and safety issues.

Communities across Kansas and America are now coming to realize just how damaging these facilities can be to property values, the very distressing side effects to human and animal health, and the overall environment, including, but certainly not limited to bird sanctuaries, waterways, roadways, to name but a few.

While I recognize that certain entities oppose this legislation, this opposition appears to be without merit, and tends to focus on purported economic development, which simply does not pass muster. "...560 jobs over the past 20 years of development..."?? (Patrick Miller, cjonline, February 4, 2022) [14 jobs/Industrial Site]

They would claim that the entities behind the construction of these industrial facilities would never enter into such enterprises without the tacit support of 'everybody' within the 'footprint' of the intended construction. In actual point of fact, we have very strong evidence and voluminous testimony that literally thousands of families, landowners, etc, have no desire whatsoever to be in proximity of these massively expansive construction zones. These people are deemed "non-applicant /non-participant"

Recent Ordinances – Setbacks Primary Reference: WINDEXchange.energy.gov

<u>Non-Participant Setback</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Ordinance Number/Reference</u>
3,960 ft (0.75 mile)**	12/18/2017	Wabash County, IN	2017-85-9
10,560 ft (2.0 miles)	June 2017	City of Bethel, ME	Land Use Legislation

**"Except as otherwise provided herein the setback distance for all COMMERCIAL WECS (Wind Energy Conversion Systems) towers and turbines shall be a minimum of Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty (3,960) feet from any non-applicant / non-participant Primary Residential or Business Structure...."