

Dear Kansas Utilities Committee;

I am writing in support of SB353!

I listened to Gayla Randel's presentation to your committee last week. One of your members said he was tired of this issue and property rights should be the primary focus. I would like to respectfully disagree with his premise. This on-going dilemma will continue as long as industrial wind companies fight setbacks and continue to pursue projects in areas with so many rural homes.

We can talk about the benefits of no zoning and local control, BUT these edifices are potentially 500-800 feet tall, unlike an unsightly building, business, car, or addition. With wind turbines, a neighbor's "decision to use their property as they would like" results in a drastic change to their non-participating neighbor's view, sound and shadows in their home, ability to use their own property safely, and resale value.

We are not asking to prohibit industrial wind in Kansas! We are requesting that they have reasonable setbacks, unlike the Irish Creek industrial wind project. It only took two commissioners to approve a project with no setbacks in Marshall County. If non-participators have no representation at the local level, what recourse do we have?

The industrial wind companies want no limits on their projects! We understand that industrial wind is important to the State of Kansas and benefits some landowners and counties, we are just asking for some basic protections. Which side is willing to compromise?

These issues will come up year after year until the State of Kansas offers reasonable protections to non-participating land owners. As wide open spaces are covered, Wind companies will have to propose projects in counties like Marshall, where the turbines surround homes. Landowners who live out of the county or state may benefit from wind payments, but incur no costs because they don't have to be surrounded by turbines or deal with unhappy neighbors.

I would challenge you to visit Marshall County's Irish Creek project. Drive through the rural homes and ask if you would want to live there. Drive through a project at night and imagine flashing red lights out each of your windows, deck or porches. As a Marshall County commissioner told a woman who lives 2000 and 2200 feet from two turbines, "I can't help where you live."

It is easy to say that elections are the way to exert influence in unzoned counties. But, by the time the next industrial wind company targets Marshall County, we may have only had one election. And remember it took only two out of three commissioners to approve a project like Irish Creek.

Please remember that there are NO other edifices that compare to industrial wind turbines. Normal thoughts about zoning can't apply. That is why we need reasonable state protections to limit, but not stop industrial wind in Kansas.

Because there are thousands of families like ours in Kansas who pay taxes, but have NO representation or protections at the local level, we must have state protections. Please pass SB353!

Thank you

Mona Musil

759 Highway 9

Blue Rapids, Kansas