

A Letter in favor of SB353

By Jonathan Sill, a concerned citizen in Marshall County

I am writing in support of SB353 because it is about time somebody in Topeka looks out for people who ,by design, currently have no voice when it comes to dealing with the CLEAR and PRESENT dangers associated with industrial wind generation.

SB353 is a step in the right direction allowing ALL members of a community to have meaningful input and have concrete protections when dealing with a potential industrial wind farm project. Because currently the only people who have any say in the matter are those who are building them and the few citizens who want them on their land.

Here are just a few of the many complex issues that industrial wind generation can affect a Kansas citizen: property rights, trespass zoning, loss of property value, noise, red-light flashing navigation lights/ADLS lighting system refusals when they can be installed per FAA and other Gov agencies, Shadow flicker, payments in lieu of taxes exploitation, forced NDAs on leaseholder contracts and Gov officials, threatening of litigation if citizens or local government fight back in any way, ineffective and inefficient power flow and generation, rate-chasing, Southwest Power Pool grid control and integration, Kansas Corporation Commission and their lack of authority or conviction to hold utilities accountable, Production Tax Credits, tax evasion, division of families and communities, power not staying in the state let alone the local area, the more non-dispatchable power sources tied to the grid the less reliable it becomes. Now obviously SB353 does not deal with all of these issues I have previously listed but it is ABSOLUTLEY IMPERATIVE for the ones it does deal directly with.

From the volumes of research I have collected on the topic of industrial wind I could write a novel as to why smart and practical oversight, like that SB353 provides, is needed in the state of Kansas, however I will not be doing that today. I will simply state that it is time for meaningful oversight to happen in regards to the exponential expansion of industrial wind energy in Kansas before the only thing Kansas will be known for is wind turbines.

On a side note I have heard that some comments have been made by members of the committee that if there was such an opposition to industrial wind that more people would be attending the various committee hearings. I implore you to consider that the majority of the people who are against industrial wind have jobs and everyday lives keeping them from attending in person, they are not as organized as those who want to build these projects, and lastly do not have professional lobbyists or law-firms hired to argue their case in front of you. IF this committee really wanted to know what the citizens of Kansas thought about industrial wind facilities being built in their part of the state I challenge you to find out. Go on a fact finding tour and visit with citizens who live in the footprint of various wind facilities around the state. Talk to those who signed up and have them on their land and those who fought them being put in and have to live with them now. Only then will this committee really know what it is really like for those citizens directly affected by industrial wind.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony.

Regards,

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