

Testimony SB 353

Kansas Senate Committee on Utilities
Testimony in Support of SB 353
Submitted by: Glenda Taylor

Chairman Mike Thompson and members of the committee,

My name is Glenda Taylor. I'm a private citizen and a resident of rural Lindsborg, Kansas.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my testimony in support of SB 353, which I believe is vital for ensuring the safety and rights of citizens and landowners who live close to industrial wind installations.

While various studies have come to differing conclusions as to whether wind turbines negatively impact the health of nearby residents, one thing is sure—wind turbines are industrial machinery, and they present a safety hazard to humans and animals within a predetermined range.

I would like the committee to consider adding a provision to SB 353 that requires wind companies to submit the safety manuals published by turbine manufacturers into public record before applying for a Special Use Permit. A copy of the safety manual should also accompany every lease presentation, so potential leaseholders understand the extent of the dangers that could be present on their property.

At this point in time, wind companies have taken extreme measures to hide these safety manuals from the general public—calling them "trade secrets." As you must know, a safety manual cannot be a trade secret. It must be open and available to all who are affected by the machinery.

In the same way, OSHA requires hardhats to be worn by anyone within range of falling objects—not just workers—so wind companies must make clear the types of dangers associated with turbines and their related electrical components. This includes the danger zone around a turbine and hazards related to accompanying substations and buried electrical lines.

In no other industry are manufacturer safety provisions kept secret from the very people they will impact. In addition to the other safety provisions in SB 353, which I wholeheartedly support, I ask that the committee add a clause making safety manuals a matter of public record and supplying the same information to potential leaseholders before they sign.

Thank you,
Glenda Taylor
1425 Shawnee Rd.
Lindsborg, KS. 67456