

**Testimony before the Kansas House and Senate Utilities Committees
Opposing SB 455 and HB 2799**

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Hello, I'm Roger Zimmerman and I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you today concerning Senate Bill 455 and HB 2799 for which I'm opposed. These bills are by no means fair to the landowner that would want to allow wind turbines on their property.

I'm the 5th generation in my family to live and farm in south west part of Wabaunsee County. I have been farming for 25 years and strive to take care of the land, in addition, twice have receiving the Kansas Bankers Award for soil conservation. The majority of this land is farmland or was farmed at one time. It's not the picture of the rolling flint hills the Audubon of Kansas produced, but rather like wheat fields waving in the summer breeze, or rows of beans and milo crops following terraces around fields.

We've had three years of drought causing hardships for farmers, but the wind always blows I think the ability to harvest a continual crop of wind would add stability as well as success to this area. Also, is there a better crop than one that's renewable, and clean?

The economic development that would be generated in our rural community would be a win, win situation. For example I understand there could be five or more full time jobs for each 50-100 megawatts produced. Not to mention the income to landowners from lease payments that would find its way back into the community.

Yet there are groups out there that oppose wind turbines in Wabaunsee County and are supporting this bill in hope to kill wind energy in the eastern half of Kansas. I've questioned these people as to why they opposed wind turbines, and here are some of their responses. "Well, I only have five acres with my home and I won't get a wind turbine, so why should you benefit by having one." Then there are the people that say they just don't want to see wind turbines and they ruin the view. Well that's just their opinion, and if they don't want them on their land, it's as simple as you don't sign a lease with a wind developer. I as well as others would enjoy looking at them if they were on our land.

Then there are the CAVE people, Citizens Against Virtually Everything. I hope you see this bill for what it is and throw it out. This is a way for the opposition to kill wind development in the eastern half of Kansas. Wabaunsee County has been working on wind regulations for over a year, and has had a moratorium in place to not accept a permit for a wind turbine for 16 months. I have researched and collected as much information, I possible could, about wind turbines, and wind farms before considering

them on my farm, and in my community. By visiting wind farms, talking to the landowners, neighbors, county appraisers, wind developers and manufactures of turbines in that area. It boils down to being a positive move in the rural community. So please, we don't need more regulations, laws, and hardships placed on landowners, for the placement for wind turbines. Do away with these bills. Thank you