

Subject: FW: SB 455 Presentation

Senate Bill 455

My family is the fourth generation entrusted to care for the family ranch located 10 miles south of Cassoday. Each generation has faced challenge's testing our management skills and our worthiness to carry on. Drought, storms, erosion control, weeds, brush, trees and stocking rates all require different approaches to maintain the prairies' healthy condition.

It bothers me greatly that by someone else's choice my livelihood is so threatened by the possible destruction of the fragile ecosystem of the Tallgrass Prairie. Placement of Wind Turbines in the Flint Hills will take away what we enjoy and share with others. It breaks my heart to think that my grandchildren may not have the opportunity to sit and look for miles across the prairies or never see a group of prairie chickens burst from the grass as we drive through the pastures. Instead they may have to watch new transmission lines and roads stretch across our land without any protest rights due to eminent domain, or witness land values decrease because who would want to live by 462-foot turbines.

The land is more than a place for a bigger house or for profit making. This land truly is our life. It has been nurtured and respected, even in times when abusing it could have generated much greater income. We have always thought past the immediate good. What is best today may have to be bypassed for the betterment of tomorrow. This philosophy supports what has been, and always will be, our ongoing dream, that the farm and the art of farming and ranching will be passed to the next generation. Please think of the future of our Flint Hills, what they contain and what they represent. And please do not let us be the last generation to be blessed with their history and beauty.

Please send Senate Bill 455 on to the Senate for consideration.

Thank you,

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