

Testimony in Support of HB 2127

By: Craig Sloan

March 13, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am pleased to present my statement supporting this bill. My name is Craig Sloan. I am not related to Representative Tom Sloan, but we are friends. I am a life-long Kansas resident and was raised near Weskan, in Wallace county, so I am quite familiar with the power packed by Kansas winds. One of my memories from earliest childhood features my father checking the array of 32 volt batteries in the "wind charger shed". Of course, REA arrived soon thereafter and the wind charger was retired. But not forgotten...

I support this bill in general, and in particular the increase to 200 KW for commercial wind. This increase will create a better opportunity for irrigators to utilize wind-turbine power to drive their irrigation wells. While many of the shallower wells in Kansas could be driven by wind turbines up to 100 KW, as you move west in the state the wells are deeper and require more power to lift the water to the surface. Increasing to 200 KW will allow more farmers to adapt wind power to their irrigation needs at a time when fossil fuels are becoming a major cost concern. The wind turbine will also provide "wind harvesting" capabilities for the farmer-owner beyond that time when irrigation is no longer feasible.

Included is a table showing irrigation well and wind power relationships.

Thank you.