

Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612
Re: HB #2273 Wind Generation Permit & Property Protection Act

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Melissa Detweiler. I'm a veterinarian in northeast Kansas. My husband and I own and operate the Bern-Sabetha Veterinary Clinic. We live in the rural area between the two towns. The home we live in is our "dream home." It's the foundation of our young family and what we always considered would be our legacy. It was a rocky path getting that home built back in 2012 and almost came to a halt when we learned about an existing wind lease on the acreage we were to buy. Over the next several months we engaged in many conversations with our neighbors and county commissioners regarding the proposed wind farm in our area. We wanted to know what it really meant to live ¼ mile (the industry standard) from an industrial wind turbine (the industry standard) because we had learned our prospective home would have *three* of them within that distance. We determined that *for our family*, we were not willing to take the risks.

We also learned there were many others like us, who were not in favor of living under the blades of industrial wind turbines. So you can imagine our elation when county resolution 2012-8 was adopted, providing 3000' setbacks to protect nonparticipating residences. With that in place, we were able to move forward and begin our dream of raising our family in rural northeast Kansas. We had been saving and planning for so many years and were finally able to create our most valuable asset. But In 2016, our commissioners rescinded resolution 2012-8 with a new resolution, 2016-8.

What caused them to overturn the 2012 decision? Was it simply a group of citizens who wanted a chance to better their livelihoods? Or was it an international wind company? A company wishing to increase *their* profits? It has been quoted by multiple sources that Resolution 2016-8 was "authored by NexTera Energy." It was NOT written by our commissioners (the people sworn to be stewards of the citizens). That fact that has many people doubting the motives and intentions of that resolution.

We made the investment into Nemaha County on the notion that our *forever home*, would be *forever protected* from living under the shadows of wind turbines. We are tormented by the concept that our children will see their horizons permanently altered with nothing but the empty promises of *corporate energy companies* ensuring their health and prosperity.

Previously, we had a choice to build in that location. And we knew, without any doubt, that we would not knowingly choose to spend our life-savings in that scenario. We were not going to voluntarily be trapped by a wind farm. We may not have that choice anymore. We implore civic leaders and lawmakers (like yourselves) to continue to protect us. Our family needs our elected officials to represent our voices, and our investments, not just those who may experience financial gain from wind energy. For every individual who will make money, there are so many more who will lose; those whose investments will suffer.

How do you want your legacy as a Kansas lawmaker to be recorded? As a person who crusaded for the families living as your constituents, or as someone who furthered the agenda of a multi-billion dollar corporation? I can't just step aside and allow two companies (who don't care a *fraction* of a percent about my family) to continue to write *our* destiny. I'd much rather place my hope in you—the men and women who have been elected to protect my family's quality of life. Will you please keep us in your regards? We need HB #2273. The voices of those who stand to lose so much need to be heard. We can't afford to have our dreams and investments torn apart by the 120 ft. blades of a turbine.

With much respect and reverence,



Melissa L. Detweiler, DVM

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