



Chairman Seiwert, Vice Chair Garber, Ranking Member Kuether, and Members of the Kansas State House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee, I truly appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony and to share my passions with you here today in opposition to House Bill 2273.

While I stand before you today as a lifelong Kansas citizen, and the Mayor of Roeland Park, I also come before you as one of the founders of the Metro KC Climate Action Coalition, a group of elected officials and community leaders dedicated to enacting and fostering proactive strategies, systems and structures within the Metro KC region that will drawdown greenhouse gases, improve climate resiliency and generate corresponding economic, social, health, and quality of life benefits.

Our membership, which is growing daily, represents residents, leaders, and elected officials in over 20 municipalities and covers both Wyandotte and Johnson Counties on the Kansas side of state line.

Recent reports such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the fourth iteration of the National Climate Assessment, make clear that the time for conversation is quickly dissipating and the need for action to address our changing climate is imminent. Although not a coastal city, the Kansas City metro area remains on the front lines in the need for climate resilience.

Recently scientists calculated those metropolitan cities expected to most feel the effects of climate change. That study, called the Climate Disruption Index, ranked Kansas City as No. 5, due to an increase of heat degree days, drought, and extreme weather like heavy rains and increased flooding. Recently, we've all just experienced "weekend winter" number 6. Climate change is not a coastal problem: It affects us all, even here in the Heart of America.

But this is not a trend without solutions. State and local governments continue to take action to improve the health and resilience of their citizens. For example, since enacting its Climate Action Plan in 2008, Kansas City Missouri's greenhouse emissions have decreased from municipal operations by 40 percent. While Kansas City took actions to improve its energy efficiency, the vast majority of this reduction was due to a cleaner fuel mixture used by its utility – a fuel mixture increasingly powered by Kansas wind.

Stable policies for renewable energy development, but especially reasonable requirements for wind turbines, are crucial to continuing the economic and community health increases we are seeing in our cities. The setbacks imposed by this bill are some of the most restrictive in the nation, and jeopardize our state's energy future.

We are concerned this bill will discourage new investment and create a de facto moratorium on wind development in Kansas, thus preventing municipalities like mine from participating in this

growing market through direct renewable energy agreements with our utility providers to power our cities with renewable, clean Kansas energy. Kansas has a lot to lose from implementing a more restrictive wind energy policy: Low cost energy, increased economic development, more jobs, healthier communities, combined with doing our part to sustain the habitability of our planet for our children and our children's children.

Jeopardizing these through heavy handed over-regulation is irresponsible and in contradiction of the wishes of this great state and its people. The fact that Kansas would uniquely consider going in the opposite direction of the nation and reducing its commitments to wind energy makes this a bill we must oppose.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this testimony presented by me and supported by the additional 36 people representing a variety of city, county and state leaders named on the third page of my testimony.

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