

March 12, 2021

Dear Senate Utilities Committee:

This letter is in reference to Senate Bill 279, and asking for a Yes vote to approve acceptable setbacks (1 mile or more) to non-participating landowners regarding solar wind projects. I agree that participating landowners should have the right to do with their land as they choose, but I feel there should be some protections for those non-participating neighbors and landowners with proper setback regulations. I strongly believe that these 500 ft. tall monstrosities will devalue my property, that we have worked so hard for. We moved from town and built a home in the country in 2010, and thoroughly enjoy the beauty the countryside has to offer and do not wish to have this view littered with these whirling and flashing giants in our backyards.

I also have concerns about health and safety risks with these being so close to homesteads. My son and his family currently have a wind turbine in their backyard less than one mile from their home. I worry about their safety. Can these things withstand a tornado? What if a blade from a turbine were to come crashing through their house? After all, we are located in tornado country. What about ice throws in the winter? I have definitely heard of this being a possibility.

A yes vote to Senate Bill 279, may at least create some peace of mind from some of these possible tragedies and also hopefully prevent property values from declining for non-participating landowners.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

K'Lyn Bergman