

Arleta M. Martin
1010 N. 13th Street
Marysville, KS 66508

March 12, 2021

The Honorable Mike Thompson
300 SW 10th St.
Room 234 E
Topeka, KS 66612

Chairman Thompson and Senate Utilities Committee Members,

Please vote yes on SB 279. Hopefully this will help protect the citizens of other counties here in Kansas. In Marshall County, our commissioners failed us.

I am deeply concerned about the proposed Irish Creek Wind Farm. This proposed area falls right along the path of the Independence Branch of the Oregon-California Trail. In the mid to late 1990's our KANZA Chapter of OCTA (Oregon-California Trails Assn.) was invited by many landowners in southern Marshall County to search their property for visible trail left on the ground. We found visible remnants on at least 19 different sections in Bigelow, Clear Creek and Wells Townships. Some measured as little as 150 feet others up to 2640 feet.

If NexEra's proposed area is extended, there are other townships that have visible remnants as well.

NexEra is not disclosing much information about their proposal, but is aggressively trying to get leases signed. We need to preserve our history for present and future generations to view and enjoy. Our ancestors endured many hardships to settle this vast country we all call home.

Tourism is a big part of Kansas' economy where people come to see our Historic Sites and view beautiful fields of grain, green pastures and rolling hills. This can all change when all they can view is a field of 100+ ugly turbines.

I not only concerned about the trail, but the health of the people of Marshall County and Kansas.

Respectfully yours,

-Arleta Martin
KANZA Chapter of OCTA