

RE: SB279

Dear Senator Thompson and Utilities Committee:

We are writing regarding concerns about the proposed Next Era Irish Creek Wind Project in Marshall County. We have asked the governor to add and protect the southern part of Marshall County as part of the Flint Hills designated area. We believe that the natural beauty that both of us have grown up with is being threatened by the Next Era Energy Irish Creek wind turbine project. Our love for this part of Kansas is deep and we don't want to see more of the Flint Hills tall grass destroyed. We think that our area of Kansas is beautiful and should be protected. We have lived in this part of the state our entire lives except for four years while serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

Marshall County is not zoned and we are concerned that the turbines can be placed too close to our homes. We have concerns regarding protection of wildlife; and noise levels, light flicker, etc. affecting health of our residents.

We give permission to use this as written testimony at the senate hearings on utilities.

Melanie Hawkinson

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