

Kathy Heiniger

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Senate Utilities Committee

Proponent Testimony for SB353

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB353. Industrial wind turbines moving into an area have a big impact on the quality of life of residents. It changes the rural landscape. I have chosen to live and farm in a rural area for a reason. I like the solitude and peace and quiet that I now enjoy. I have adjacent land owners who have signed wind leases, so this bill is very pertinent to my well-being.

SBS353 protects the non-participating land owners who will be affected by shadow flicker, noise, and flashing lights at night. With the size of turbines increasing in recent years, the 5,280-foot setback requirement is essential to minimize these effects. The bill requires letters to be sent to landowners within any applicable setback distance and also to publish a notice in the official newspaper of the county. If a landowner wants to get a permit to build a livestock facility in the state of Kansas, these items are currently required by KDHE. Why should a wind company be exempt from these requirements?

A big concern of mine regarding industrial wind is the decommissioning process. This bill has specific provisions for people who have signed a lease. Under these guidelines, they (and their descendants) should not be stuck with a wind turbine on their property long after its use is finished. For the non-participating adjacent land owners, this should eliminate the worry of wind turbines remaining out their window when the turbines are no longer generating electricity.

I strongly urge the passage of SB353.

Kathy Heiniger