

Senators:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the bills concerning Industrial Wind and Solar Projects.

I live in the footprint of one of Kansas's most recent projects, Irish Creek Wind. This has been the single most destructive force to ever hit our community. We have always pulled together during times of disasters. Now, we are being pulled apart.

The project was underway with landowner contracts signed before those of us who would be most effected even knew it was proposed. The majority of participating landowners are absentee or do not have turbines placed anywhere near their homes. Very few, if any, are exposed to the noise or shadow flicker. Their views aren't ruined day and night by 500 ft industrial turbines and the constantly blinking lights. Their property values aren't in danger of plummeting. They don't have to worry what will happen when the turbines reach the end of their usefulness. They receive the benefit but they don't suffer the consequences. Those of us who live in the footprint take the brunt of the "side effects".

We are 3,201 ft from the closest of 108 turbines. Before the construction, it was "estimated" that we would have 6.1 hours of shadow flicker in our home per year and a peak of 42 dB of noise. Neither is accurate. The project went online in November 2021. Immediately the decibel level was exceeded. Depending on the wind speed and direction, it can be double! Within 2 weeks, not a year, we had also exceeded the estimated shadow flicker. I notified my commissioners and the wind company rep. My commissioner told me I lived too far away to complain. They had been told that half a mile (2,640 ft.) was adequate distance so that is what they approved in their contracts with the wind company. I feel our commissioners were, at best, very naive.

As a nonparticipating landowners, should we be exposed to the dangerous noise levels and the annoyance of shadow flicker? The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends daytime decibel levels not exceed 45 and nighttime levels not exceed 35 dB in rural settings. Clearly, these recommendations are being exceeded with no consequences. The shadow flicker in our home has given me headaches. I've closed curtains but they still flash around the edges and through the front door. Yes, the

flicker only lasts for 45 to 53 minutes, and not every day, but the headaches can last most of the morning. The only options are to leave home or hide in the one room that doesn't receive the flicker. I worry about a family member that suffers from epilepsy. I felt the need to ask him not to visit in the mornings. Our lives have been disrupted through no fault of our own.

I realize wind and solar projects can be a boon for the state but they come with a downside. With this legislation, you can provide protection for your constituents. Safe setbacks would help to control the noise and shadow flicker. Property value protections would benefit the individuals and the counties that depend on property tax. Specialty lights that are triggered by airplane radar should be required to prevent the hundred(s) of blinking lights disrupting our night skies. This legislation could also protect the counties and state when the time comes to decommission the turbines.

After all, protecting the citizens of Kansas should be your top priority, not protecting the profits of out of state developers.

Sincerely,
Carol Hull
Marshall County
Frankfort, Kansas