

Proponent Testimony
Senate Bill No. 353
Committee on Utilities

By
Margy Stewart

11003 Lower McDowell Rd., Junction City, Kansas 66441 margystewart785@gmail.com
February 6, 2022

Dear Senator Thompson, Chair, and Dear Committee Members:

I am a wildlife advocate and have testified at numerous hearings on wind turbines around the state when (as is almost universally the case) proposed developments conflict with the voluntary siting guidelines established by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

You may ask why a wildlife advocate would care about this bill, which would provide some quality-of-life protections for human beings.

The truth is the human-nature bond is itself a natural resource—as precious as clean air, good food, and clean water. Without the people who care about their fellow creatures there will be no preservation of our native ecosystems, including the plants and animals on which human life itself depends.

It is people open to nature who are most bothered by mechanical noise, shadow flicker, and blinking, artificial lights. In every county I have visited, those are the people who are in the forefront of opposition to industrial wind. They are the ones who support *all* the members of their “land communities,” including the plants and animals. Quality of life to them means the thriving of nature, too.

You too may have noticed as I have that these embattled counties produce citizen-advocates of astonishing quality—people such as Gayla Randel of Marshall County, Debra Cramer of Labette, Steve Westfahl of Reno, Bev Kavouras of McPherson, Kim Simons of Bourbon, and Susan Mayo of Marion—people who spend literally *thousands* of hours of unpaid time researching every aspect of the issue and who put their regular lives aside to advocate for their communities.

The wind industry is breaking the hearts of such people.

Who makes our communities better—people who sacrifice to protect their localities or the lobbyists who have to be paid before they will come before you?

SB 353 is a step toward protecting the quality of life for rural residents, human and non-human!

Therefore, I wholeheartedly support it and urge you to do the same.