

To: Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbine Lighting
From: Spencer Duncan, Government Affairs Director
Date: October 27, 2022
RE: Comments on Wind Turbine Lighting and Regulations

The membership of the League of Kansas Municipalities does not have an official position on this issue as part of our Legislative priorities or Statement of Municipal Policy.

However, cities have a role to play in these decisions, as this is primarily a local policy issue. Local leaders are best positioned to work with citizens and respond to the needs of communities. City leaders are actively involved in these discussions and decisions.

The issues the committee is discussing in relation to wind turbines falls primarily upon county governments and county commissioners. Counties have authority to make final decisions on most wind turbine issues, and some have already placed moratoriums on wind turbine development or prohibited developments in certain areas with zoning regulations.

Each community in Kansas has its own perspective on wind turbines, with there being support and concerns depending on the community. The issues around wind turbines are different for communities depending on location within the state. There is no “one size fits all” approach to the issue, which is why our association supports local control and having our cities continue to work with county partners. It is also primarily a county issue as nearly all wind turbines are placed in unincorporated areas of counties, not often within city limits due to site structure sizes.

The issue of lighting, however, is not entirely a local issue. Lighting on wind turbines exists for safety reasons. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) provides standards to increase visibility of wind turbines for pilots. Standards adopted by Counties (which cities must follow) reflect FAA standards. In a municipality where there are no standards for wind turbine lighting, FAA standards are then in automatically in effect, by default.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am always available for follow up questions or providing additional information.

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