



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

Senate Bill 49
Proponent Testimony
Senator Mike Thompson
Senate District 10

Chairman Delperdang and members of the committee,

I stand in support of Senate Bill 49.

Kansas now has close to 4,500 industrial scale wind turbines spread across the state. Around 6,000 more are projected to be built in this state. The light pollution problems with these turbines will not go away.

Among the many complaints I hear from Kansans who live in and near the large installations of wind turbines, one of the most frequent involves the perpetual blinking of the red aviation lights at night. The quality of life in those rural areas has been forever altered by the installation of these turbines. The people who choose to live in rural Kansas, do so for a reason. They want to see unimpeded horizons and the stars at night...free of light pollution.

SB49 provides relief for those who will live near future installations. If SB49 passes, they will know that they will have limited exposure to the blinking lights.

SB49 will also provide eventual relief for those who live near the existing structures. The timeline will be different for each installation as it depends on the expiration and renewal of the power purchase agreement.

The issue here is providing certain relief for the people who live near turbines where the long term power purchase agreements have already been signed and won't come up for renewal for 10 to 20 years. Will these people have to wait that long for relief? The answer relies on a portion of the bill that allows for counties to use their bonding authority to negotiate a deal

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with the wind companies to install the ALDS systems and the company must maintain the system after the county pays for all or part of the installation. This feature still places a burden on the taxpayer for an installation that is owned by a wind company.

I would have liked to have seen a “date certain” provision in the bill that forced the ALDS systems to be installed on all existing turbines by a certain date. That would clear up the issues with SB49, but given the extensive negotiations and issues that arose on the Senate side, that was not possible this time around.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 49 to ensure that we return the unimpeded night skies to rural Kansas!

Thank you!

Standing in protection of our children,

Mike Thompson

Senator Mike Thompson
Kansas 10th District