

Gayla Randel, Proponent (with amendments)

March 14, 2023

Lighting Mitigation Bill (SB49)

Dear House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee,

You have the power to ensure the wind developers BEGIN to think of ALL rural citizenry of Kansas. As our top officials, you can ensure our beautiful night skies can be returned to us. (This also can't be a local decision because this is a multi-county issue, extending across borders.)

SB49 is a good start, but it is obvious wind lobbyists are getting into the heads of officials in Topeka, pushing back with a start date too far in the future on required lighting mitigation on new turbine builds, but also not acknowledging when EXISTING turbines will be required to retrofit until when a new power purchase agreement is being developed. This is unacceptable because they also say they can't share with you how long that will take for those of us with existing developments because it's a private company contract. That is a ploy to sentence me and my community with red blinking lights for a projected 20 years. That is unacceptable. ADLS lighting has nothing to do with how much they are being paid for the electricity they are selling, much of which is purchased by entities outside of Kansas. It has everything to do with wanting THEIR terms even when they are making \$ billions annually. (Just look at their reported earnings.)

Why should my family and others like mine have to put up with this loss of our property enjoyment? There are over 4000 turbines each with a red blinking light every 3 seconds. Do you know how many citizens are having to deal with these? AND this technology has been in place since 2016. This means IF the wind developers REALLY WERE trying to play nice with rural citizens, they would have installed the light mitigation since then. They have not...why? You tell me as the cost of installation at the time of turbine construction would be pennies on their dollar. (They will have an answer for this...lobbyist and their attorneys have a rehearsed answer... research it yourself to see if it's truthful.)

Please pass SB49 but remember those of us who are living with turbines in our geographic areas. Many of you may not even see them from your homes or place of residence, but I live in a foot print of a wind development, with two more close by (all built since 2015), meaning my family has red, blinking lights on ALL four sides of our property, not in sync (each development on their own timing), likely blinking until I am 83 if nothing is done on your end.

Imagine if you not only lost your rural quiet but could not look in any direction without red blinking lights. In my case, I have over 130 red blinking lights seen from my rural home. It is because of OUR experience YOU know to require it moving forward.

I have two adult children, both fully embracing the beauty and solitude of what living rural can mean. They want to live in Kansas and purchase land of their own. I have told them not to. Don't live in rural Kansas. Don't spend your life savings and develop your forever home where your enjoyment can be ripped away from you due to the lack of oversight and regulation in Kansas. Move to another state, like Montana where their constitution addresses a protection of their rural spaces to ensure it is enjoyed for generations to come.

No one should move into rural Kansas for rural quiet, dark nights and solitude. It's not likely to stay that way. But you could at least return the dark night skies with passing an amended SB49. Thank you.