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SENATE CHAMBER

Proponent Testimony for SB 49

Thank you Chairman Delperdang and Committee Members for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 49 – if it is amended.

But first. For Kansas residents who live in the footprint of a wind farm, the constant blinking red lights are a serious issue. However, for those, like me, who do not live near or within sight of several acres of wind turbines it may not seem like a problem, making it difficult to comprehend a need for such legislation. Home owners who live in close proximity to wind turbines, tell me that the constant blinking red lights disrupt sleep for humans and animals. Additionally, the constant blinking can/will cause headaches.

Those of us who live in rural areas of Kansas enjoy the clear night sky and a spectacular view of the moon and thousands of stars. Even if a person chooses to say the blinking red lights don't disrupt sleep or cause headaches, there's no denying that they destroy the opportunity of rural residents to enjoy the splendor of God's creation – a starlit night sky.

After passing the Senate, I took a closer look at the language of SB49, and had many conversations with residents in close proximity to a wind farm. The 24 month (2 year), time frame listed in Sec. 1(a), (b)(1) and (c) is excessive.

Additionally, Sec. 1 (b)(1) has a date of January 1, 2026. That is more than two and a half years from now. With that "on and after" date, existing wind farms would not be required to install the light mitigating technology system for five years, or longer. Also, notice the "new power offtake agreement" language in line 31 as well as page 3, line 12.

My understanding is a "new power offtake agreement" may not happen for 10-20 years – further delaying the requirement to install a light-mitigating technology system. Persons living near a wind farm do not want lengthy delays before they have relief from the constant blinking lights.

I ask the Committee to significantly change SB49 to closer match what North Dakota has implemented – a hard date that says a light-mitigating technology system must be installed on wind turbines. Although I would like the date to be March 16, 2023, my suggestion for the hard date is January 1, 2025. At a minimum I ask the committee to amend the bill by reducing the 24 months down to 12 months.

Thank you for your time. I'm glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time.