

Date: January 25, 2023

Bill: SB46

Type of Testimony: Virtual Testimony (after 2:05 on January 25th) or Written if not possible after 2:05 p.m.

Proponent

FROM:

Gayla Randel, State of Kansas Taxpayer and Registered Voter
785-587-4960

TO: Senate Utilities Committee, State of Kansas

I live in the footprint of the Irish Creek Wind LLC development with turbines to the south and west, however I can see the Soldier Creek Wind LLC turbines to the east from my backyard as well as the Marshall County Wind turbines approximately 5 miles north. I counted over 130 red flashing lights on all four sides of my property. Imagine...red blinking stop lights...every night, all night long ...and not in sync. In addition, the blinking off, on, off, on catches your attention every time. It's not something to put in rural spaces where we desire visual stillness, dark skies and quiet.

I support SB46 because rural residents should not have to put up with this infringement on property enjoyment. In fact, wind developers know this is an unpleasant requirement of turbine builds. Wind developers COULD have added this control when they became available, but they didn't. I repeat...they COULD have but didn't! Today, lobbyists will likely try to state adding these to existing turbines is too expensive, however remember this... THEY decided NOT to install them when being built. The cost is an excuse for something they should have added to begin with. Wind developers are making millions at Kansas expense so adding controls now should not be an issue.

In addition, lobbyists will likely state they don't know if this can happen due to contracts with land owners. This is also not a true issue as their contracts state they can access property across, over, under and through all land at any time they need to. I've seen a draft versions and signed land contracts and know this to be fact.

SB46 passage will mitigate this issue for existing wind developments and indicate this committee has listened to our pleas for protecting what we hold dear about rural Kansas, but there are additions needed.

I would request the following additions:

- Penalties identified for noncompliance to ensure wind does indeed take this bill seriously.
- dRequire documentation of request application submission to the FAA within six-months of a project filing with the agencies overseeing electricity production and management such as the FAA or Southwest power pool to expedite the application process.
- Add a statement that establishes a reporting process with the attorney general's office (or like agency) if compliance is being broken so residents can report to our state officials what is happening in the field.
- In the same manner, allow a one-time 24-month delay, not repeated and add turbines must be turned off due to noncompliance until the lighting is installed.
- SB46 fails to be strong enough to hold developers accountable without the above.

This is my fourth year giving testimony with no outcome. Let this be the first of several statues protecting the citizens of Kansas.