

***Kansas Farm Bureau
Policy Statement***

**House Committee on Energy and Environment
HB 2241; An Act concerning renewable energy portfolio standards.**

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Written Testimony Submitted by:
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Chairman Hedke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2241 relating to the delay or the implementation Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS). I am Michael Irvin, Legislative Counsel - Governmental Relations for the Kansas Farm Bureau.

KFB stands neutral on HB 2241 as proposed, but offers an opportunity to discuss the current benefits and opportunities that exist with the development of these standards.

As you know KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through 105 county Farm Bureau Associations. Our members farm and ranch, and make their homes in communities across the state and benefit each day from the development our vast renewable energy the surrounds us.

We have and continue to support the need for the development of a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of renewable energy and the use of tax credits and other incentives to achieve this plan. In addition, we support the expansion of the RPS up to 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025.

Also, we have strong policy adopted at the national level that supports using renewable standards to stimulate electricity generation from a variety of sources. This policy was adopted by the 50 State Farm Bureaus and sends a strong message of support for this concept.

The Kansas standard currently requires that at least 10 percent of electricity generation capacity in Kansas be from renewable sources. By 2016 that requirement will increase to 15 percent, and from 2020 onward it will be 20 percent.

There are numerous benefits to maintaining the RPS at the current rate and eventually expanding it. One example is the growth of the wind energy development within in our state. It has created numerous opportunities for production/construction jobs; it has produced a revenue stream for our members as well as other landowners around the state; it has developed maintenance jobs at wind farms; and it has shaped our state into being a leader in the renewable energy industry.

We encourage the development of the RPS through economically competitive energy sources, through sound advancement of portfolio standards and a pro-growth tax policy. This would lead to less dependency on others for our energy needs and continue to allow our state to be a leader in renewable energy development. Delaying this plan may cost significant job loss, decrease disposable income, and business investment, while making less energy available to be consumed that is developed from our own resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to present these comments today. KFB stands ready to assist this committee as you consider this important issue.