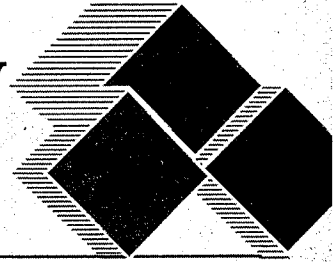


Dodge City Ford County



DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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As representatives of the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation, we see daily the impact that current legislation has had on Ford County and the tremendous investment that has been made in wind generation, and energy transmission, in our County. Not only have we seen the direct impact of the wind farms and transmission line projects, but also the tremendous impact that it has made on our hotels, restaurants and other service industries.

Due to the need for new transmission infrastructure, it has taken several years to get the momentum moving forward for wind energy in Kansas. Now that several transmission projects have been created, and more are in the planning stages, Kansas has further strengthened its competitive advantage over states trying to compete for wind energy & transmission projects and jobs. To remain competitive, it is absolutely crucial that Kansas establish trust and send a consistent message to the wind energy industry that Kansas is stable, cooperative, and will continue to be so for the foreseeable future. It is also imperative that we continue to bring wind farm projects into the state to utilize the investment that has been, and continues to be, made in transmission.

The existing legislation has created a very positive competitive advantage for wind energy in Kansas. HB 2241 will illustrate the instability in Kansas' ability to do business and it sends the message that the Kansas wind industry is a risky investment. If this is the message Kansas wants to send, Kansas must understand that the result could be the death of this industry, which will have an immediate negative impact on our front line businesses.

Wind energy projects in Ford County have injected millions of dollars into our local communities. Dodge City has seen a substantial impact in retail and service, while Spearville, a community of 900 residents, is currently under construction with an \$8.2 million school addition, which is being paid for from the proceeds of just the first of four wind farms developed around their community.

Unfortunately, HB 2241 threatens the continued growth of this industry. The current legislation is working and changes to that legislation are detrimental to our community and State. We ask that you vote "No" on this bill.

Joann Knight, Executive Director
Dodge City Ford County Development Corporation

Brady Pollington, Business Recruitment Coordinator
Dodge City Ford County Development Corporation