



**Testimony of Mike Baughn, Thomas County Commissioner
Before the Senate Committee on Local Government
In Opposition of Senate Bill No. 325
January 27, 2022**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chairperson McGinn and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 325. KLPG is a non-partisan organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 34 rural Kansas counties.

Senate Bill No. 325, among other things, appears to require prior to construction, all future wind and solar facilities to be zoned for industrial use by a county. We oppose the mandated zoning requirement in Senate Bill No. 325.

Zoning is a method of land use control utilized by local governments to regulate how a parcel of land within a community may be used and developed. The intent of zoning is to balance individual property rights with the interests of the community. However, not all counties have chosen to adopt zoning regulations.

Kansas should continue to allow locally elected officials to make zoning decisions, and not establish state-imposed mandate. KLPG strongly supports local control.

Generations of Kansans have lived in our communities without complex land use limitations dictating how properties are used or developed. Zoning, in some instances, is frequently contentious, can discourage development that doesn't conform to certain standards, may foreclose future development opportunities and doesn't always provide the flexibility needed in rural communities.

County governments vary in staff size, technical capacity and financial resources.> Mandating a regulatory requirement like zoning, will add an unnecessary additional layer of government and be costly to taxpayers.

We urge you not to mandate zoning in Kansas and reject Senate Bill No. 325.

Mike Baughn
President
Kansas Legislative Policy Group