

Kingman County Commissioners
Testimony with regard to HB 2241

Kingman County has approximately 6,000 residents located just 45 miles west of Wichita. Even with our proximity to Sedgwick County we are a rural county with a budget of approximately 8.7 million dollars.

Kingman County was blessed with a small portion of the development of Flat Ridge II, one of the largest wind farms in the nation.

Initially landowners received compensation in the form of lease payments.

Kingman receives \$312,000.00 through donations or PILOT payments yearly. This will help fund a long-term obligation to build a law enforcement center.

In addition, the county received a grant of \$300,000.00 for emergency fire equipment in 3 small rural volunteer fire departments. These departments couldn't afford new brush trucks. (This is the type of fire trucks the rural communities need and use.)

When the mortgage was filed the county received \$192,000.00 in mortgage registration tax.

Sales tax revenue during the year of construction increased approximately \$200,000.00. The multiplier effect was very evident with increased revenue to local contractors and retail companies.

Roads were constructed and improved in the rural communities. The quality of these roads far exceeds the prior condition of the gravel roads in the area.

Home sales skyrocketed and the rental properties were full.

A quick look at receipts indicates approximately 1 million to county funds. Remember Kingman County has a 8.7 million budget. This is significant economic development for rural Kansas. Rural Kansas cannot afford to offer incentives to obtain businesses that provide that level of economic development.

With a possibility of additional wind farms to be developed in the near future in Kingman County and other Kansas counties is imperative we do not send a negative message to wind farm developers. We want these farms in Kansas, not Oklahoma or Nebraska

In view of property taxes shifting to residences and land, the PILOT contribution by the wind farms gives flexibility to communities to use that money in areas they are deficient whether it be schools, libraries, law enforcement centers, etc.

It appears wind energy is a perfect companion to energy generated by natural gas. Again production of natural gas is perfect economic development opportunity for rural Kansas.

Please do not change the RPS. Vote no on House Bill 2241.

Kingman County Commissioners

John Steffen
Fred Foley
Carol Voran