

Joseph Hieger  
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**SB279 Proponent**

Dear Senator Thompson:

Thank you for your efforts regarding the Senate Bill 279 on wind energy and the protection of the citizens. Please forward this email accordingly.

I lived in West Sedgwick County, KS, then built our first and only home approximately 5 miles West, just inside Reno county.

I am a mechanical design engineer and a neighbor to a smaller 59-foot tall turbine at 100 feet from my bedroom window. We dealt with several years of shadow flicker across my property. After the neighbor's turbine was erected, my stay-at-home wife and young children decreased outdoor activities drastically due to the shadow flicker and erratic noise/whine of the turbine gearbox. Indoors, it caused a strobe effect throughout our house for several months a year. We moved our beds to the basement as the noise at night decreased our sleep. Fortunately, the residence sold, and the new neighbor immediately disconnected the wind turbine for the same reasons.

My calculations for present turbine designs indicate direct shadow flicker through 11.5 times-the-system-height of the turbine, as shown in my drawing figure on page 2 of this document. Note indirect shadow flicker would continue beyond this distance.

Reading the SB 279, it is comforting to see SB 279, Sections (1) and (3), "12 times the system height or 7,920 feet, whichever is greater, from any residential property or public building," and, "10 times the system height or 5,280 feet, whichever is greater, from any property line of nonparticipating real property." Per SB279 section (6), "The wind turbine density shall not exceed one turbine per square mile." Maybe this is to ensure a compilation of turbines in proximity to a non-participating resident does not amplify the overall noise impact. Fine as-is, but please consider overall effects of multiple turbines throughout any future protections/laws.

After a few years, we continue the battle of a Wind Developer, Nextera, attempting to site turbines too close to our homes and properties. While Nextera still pursues their lawsuit against the County, they also continue to persuade our County Commission and Chamber to implement wind energy in our corner of the county, next to Sedgwick County which banned turbines last year due to economic growth in the area. I am 500 feet inside Reno County, thus 15 miles from Wichita, with no adequate protections in place, within a County that does not fully understand the economic impact nor magnitude of what turbines impose on the non-participating residents around them.

By the time each Kansas County has to figure it all out, the Developers are taking advantage of our State tax incentives with no State protections for such spinning structures as turbines.

Please rescue us from the unfortunately poor implementation of wind energy in Kansas to date, so residents' property rights are protected as well as our well-being for our families. There is plenty of real estate and opportunity in Kansas for Renewable energy (derived from the sun) via wind turbines, wobble turbines, solar panels, and anything similar.

Kansas Resident,

Joseph Hieger

