

Kansas Senator Mike Thompson

In reference to SB279, I believe 5 main points must be considered:

1. A county/state must first recognize and establish its most valuable asset to be “the people”.

It is imperative that this mindset be considered first and foremost as future legislative actions move forward. The contributions and cooperation of hardworking citizens and landowners of an area, will fundamentally determine the success or failure of any Commercial Wind Energy Conversion System (CWECS) project allowed into a county or state.

2. Location of a CWECS project must include appropriate turbine siting.

By first establishing adequate setbacks of wind turbines, other major concerns will be minimized and possibly remedied. Major concerns (i.e. noise level, flickering, ice and blade throw, health repercussions, protections for parks and recreation areas, etc.) will ultimately be affected by setbacks. Legislatures must recognize that CWECS systems are massive, long-term commercial, industrialized operations and location of such projects is vitally important.

- **Turbine siting should be in relationship to a landowner’s property line, not the main residence.**

When setbacks are determined from a residence, non-participating landowners are severely limited in their rights to build anywhere on their property. Non-participating landowners should not be handicapped by building in reference to where turbines are located on adjoining participating properties.

- **CWECS projects should not be built in densely populated rural areas.**

The positive, aesthetic value of country living, as well as health and environmental risks, must not be overridden in a rush to appease large energy corporations.

3. Written regulations/laws must include very precise and enforceable language.

Failure to include explicit and carefully worded language into legislation will result in time-consuming problems and expensive lawsuits to the county/state. Implementing explicit laws and regulations upfront will not only protect and aid landowners/residents, but it will serve to benefit interested wind energy companies in knowing exactly what they will be held accountable to and what penalties will ensue through violations when considering a potential CWECS site.

4. **Updated technological advancements should be regularly evaluated and installed on CWECS projects** (i.e. ADLS lighting systems).

Developers are requiring participating parties to sign long-term leases that are decades in length. CWECS projects need to continually update since leases are long term. Future generations will be impacted.

5. **Construction, maintenance and decommissioning of CWECS projects must be viewed as a joint cooperative effort between the developer and the county/state.**

Truthful, time-sensitive, adequate information must flow between the partnership of developers and a county/state.

- A developer should be required to establish and maintain an escrow account/surety bond/ insurance policy to assure the complete removal and restoration requirements that occur through decommissioning.

As a fourth- generation landowner of Reno County, I take inherited pride and enjoyment in living a rural life. I am not opposed to future wind energy development. Such projects, however, must be located appropriately in non-populated areas and turbine setbacks must be determined with equal protection and rights afforded to both participating and non-participating landowners.

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