



March 19, 2021

Senator Mike Thompson, Chair
Senate Utility Committee
Room 225-E
Kansas Capital Building
Topeka, Kansas

Dear Senator Thompson and Committee Members:

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance represents over 76 Kansas communities and counties with over 100 economic development professionals who work to bring new companies and jobs to the state of Kansas. Today we are opposing Senate Bill 279 for numerous reasons.

The growth of wind energy has become a major economic development factor for companies seeking new locations and/or expansions for existing plants. Kansas is one of the top wind energy producers in the entire United States. This is one of the top positive factors for the state. Senate Bill 279 would greatly lessen the ability to provide wind generated power. The bill would disrupt the growth and sustainability of the wind industry and greatly lessen the positive reputation of wind power within Kansas.

Also within Senate Bill 279 are noise restrictions that would be established. There is great concern that these limits would also be expanded to other industries in the future impacting manufacturing to produce their products. This bill will also install setback requirements that would impact the landowners' ability to host wind turbines. This bill would limit one wind turbine per square mile. These restrictions would actually increase the size of a projects land span, while reducing leasing opportunities for landowners.

In closing there have been numerous economic development projects that credit the access of wind generated power to their locating or expanding here in Kansas. In Topeka, the growth of Mars Chocolate North America was related to access of wind power. The recent announcement of Schwan's Foods in Salina to make more frozen pizza creating over 225 new jobs had wind energy as a project requirement. There are current ongoing projects considering Kansas that state their power must be met 100% wind generated.

In closing KEDA opposes Senate Bill 279 and believes it would negatively impact the current and future economy of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Mitch Robinson".

Mitch Robinson, 2nd Vice President
Kansas Economic Development Alliance