

I am writing today **in opposition to SB 279** which would essentially stop wind energy development in Kansas.

**Kansas ranks 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation for potential energy production from wind. Currently **41.5% of our electricity is generated by wind power** and the percentage is growing rapidly. Wind power **saves** on average **4.5 Billion gallons of water** annually in Kansas. Wind energy in Kansas is largely responsible for our 40% decline in carbon emissions which contribute to climate change and endanger the health of Kansans. A new “Economic Impacts of Kansas Wind Energy” report indicates Kansas counties and landowners with leases will receive **\$1.51 Billion dollars in direct economic benefits** for wind farms operating at the end of 2020.

Kansas has benefitted from **9,000 direct jobs** during construction and operation and another 12,000 indirect and induced jobs thanks to this growing industry. Wind turbine service technician jobs are projected to be the [fastest growing occupation in the US between 2019-2029](#). Cloud County Community College currently has one of the few award-winning wind energy programs in the country and other Kansas community colleges are considering programs as well. I work at one of those colleges.

I have volunteered for nearly 15 years in my community in educating residents and students about the impacts of and solutions to climate change. I am most proud when I tout the great strides that Kansas has made in wind energy development and the ensuing jobs.

This bill is not designed to help protect the safety and welfare of Kansans, but to stop wind development completely. Key provisions of this ten-page bill include **some of the most restrictive regulations in U. S.**, and some are even retroactive. Why? Why stop a growing industry that has such economic and environmental benefits for Kansas and the nation, is very popular, and in which Kansas is a national leader? There are no good reasons to do so, and the right and smart thing to do is to continue in the path we are on to benefit all.

Thank you for your consideration,

Penny Mahon  
Prairie Village, Kansas