

**Testimony before the Senate Utilities Committee
Opposing SB 279
Presented by Tad Kramar**

March 23, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am Tad Kramar of Big Springs, Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 279.

Kansas has become a national leader in wind energy. Wind energy has provided 9,000 direct jobs during construction and operation and another 12,000 indirect jobs in Kansas, and this growing industry promises to provide many more jobs in Kansas if the legislature does not destroy our wind industry by enacting this outrageous bill. Moreover, 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.

SB 279 would effectively halt wind energy development in Kansas by placing totally unnecessary *retroactive* restrictions on wind energy that are some of the most restrictive regulations in the United States and virtually impossible to comply with, including requirements that wind turbines be at least:

- 1 ½ miles from residential properties or public buildings
- 3 miles from an airport, federal wildlife refuge, public hunting area or public park
- 1 mile from the property lines of all nonparticipants

The bill also imposes the ludicrous requirement that there can be no more than one turbine per square mile.

SB 279 is the exact opposite of what we should be doing. Wind power lowers electric prices, creates jobs, helps rural communities, and significantly benefits our environment. Kansas should continue to be a national leader in wind energy. Furthermore, climate change, with its extreme weather events, is here now and will only get worse unless we continue to develop renewable energy sources such as wind power.

Please vote NO on SB 279. We need continued growth in renewable energy to support our economic recovery and protect our environment.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues.