

February 7, 2022

Senator Mike Thompson
Chair Utilities Committee

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I am writing about bill SB353 that will discuss windmill setbacks for non-participating landowners. My husband and I live in Marshall County where Nextera recently installed a wind turbine farm. We have 5 turbines under a mile from our house and more within 2 miles, one within a half a mile. Those that say they are not noisy do not live near one. Somedays they are not awful, but other days they are very much so. I feel we now live at an airport with planes circling constantly. We were told they are no louder than a dishwasher. This is the loudest dishwasher I have ever heard as we can hear them in our home. It now sounds like it is windy, or a train in the distance is going by every day. We don't hear this if the tv is on but when we go to bed you can hear them. We run a fan to block it out. Thankfully we live at the bottom of a big hill, so we don't see the blinking lights from all the turbines, just 6 and that is enough. I can stand to look at them, but would prefer not to, but it is the noise and what they have done to our cell phones that bothers us the most. As I said, we live at the bottom of a hill. We have never had good cell reception till a year ago when we broke down and spent money to purchase an outdoor antenna and booster, which wasn't cheap. What a difference it made. Our cell phones worked in every room including the basement. We even decided to go with their internet service as the reception was that good. That is for 11 months until the turbines were turned on. We are now dropping calls on a regular basis, people tell us they cannot hear us, the internet is slow and spotty as the turbines are messing with the outdoor antenna reception. The same is true for our neighbors who use outdoor antennas for free tv. They have lost almost all their channels, but they magically reappear when the turbines are off. Same for our cell phones. When the turbines are off, we once again have great service. Cell service is rather important for us as we run a cow/calf operation. My husband depends on being able to call me if he needs help, especially in the middle of the night. Now I may receive the call, I may not. We were told there would be no issues with cell phones, so we entered a new 30-month contract with our cell carrier a month or so before the turbines turned on. We are now stuck with phones that don't work as they should. Think how much you use your cell phone on a daily basis. Can you go without it?

As for the noise, early morning and in the evening seems to be the worst so far. This will be sad going into the summer months when it is nice to spend time outside in the evening. Early on, when there was humidity in the air, we could feel a pressure in our head. This doesn't seem to be as bad right now, but will it return with summer and heat? We are waiting to see about shadow flicker as we have been told we will have it. I have seen what it is like for some of our neighbors, not something anyone would want. They said it is hard to be in those rooms with it happening. Our shadow flicker will affect our living room, dining room and bedrooms. Kind of hard to get away from the turbines outside and also inside the home. It is amazing how many people that signed up for turbines did NOT sign-up land near their own homes. Why is that? Landowners are more than happy to push it on their neighbor but not themselves, something is wrong with that. No one should have to live within a mile of these things,

especially when the owners of them refuse to. Please vote for a mile setback. Setbacks do not stop turbine development but does give nonparticipating homeowners some hope of a normal home.

Please also consider what will happen to all these turbine parts when they are no longer useful. Will they just go away? We all know that will not happen. Instead, they will fill up landfills. Is that environmentally friendly? What will we be leaving for our children and grandchildren? Kansas has some of the last natural prairie. That too will be gone. Wind is not clean energy and is only viable due to all the government incentives. There has to be a better way than ruining the natural beauty of Kansas and filling landfills. As a side note, we do own land that could have been signed up for a turbine. It was not near our home but someone else's. We decided not to sign up with Nextera.

Thank you for your time and please do the right thing by protecting those nonparticipating landowners who have no recourse with big wind. We don't have paid advocates to lobby the house and the senate. They say the turbines are not an issue, but why did only 8 people who actually live in the footprint of these turbines sign contracts? Of those 8, only a couple agreed to let a turbine be near their own home. Seventy five percent of the landowners with a contract do NOT live in the footprint. I worry they will be back in a few years to place more turbines near me and others in our area. No one should be forced to live within a mile of these. Please vote for a mile setback.

Sincerely,

Gary and Susan Koch

Marshall Co. Kansas