

**SENATE UTILITY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**  
**ON**  
**SB 455**  
**(OPPOSED)**

Liz Hendricks – Native Elk County Landowner, Elk County Commissioner, Real Estate Agent, Cattle Rancher (Disclaimer – not here representing the County Commission)

- Kansas Corporation Commission **should** require permits for all wind turbine development in Kansas, **not just Flint Hill Region** (Sec 2)
- Permit requirements **should not** include landowners within 2 miles of development (6)
- Permit requirements **should not** involve land uses within 2 miles of development (10)
- Permit requirements **should not** have to identify impact on farmland (11)
- Permit requirements **should not** have to identify the dependency on tax credits or other government subsidies. (12)
- Commission **should not** have to hold public hearings (Sec 3 c)
- Commission **should** publish permit request but **should not** have to publish public hearing notice (Sec 3 d)
- Commission **should not** have to appoint an attorney (Sec 3 e)
- Applicant **should not** have to establish evidence of the necessity of the proposed development. (Sec 3f)



February 23, 2004

TO: Representative Emler and Members of Senate  
Utilities Committee

FROM: Trudy Aron, Executive Director

RE: **OPPOSITION FOR SB 455**

*President*  
Rich Bartholomew, AIA  
Overland Park

*President Elect*  
Mark Franzen, AIA  
Overland Park

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Bobbi Pearson, Assoc, AIA  
Emporia

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Jennifer Rygg, Assoc, AIA  
Wichita

Jason Van Hecke, AIA  
Wichita  
Kyle Wedel, AIAS  
Manhattan

Good morning, Senator Emler and members of the Committee. I am Trudy Aron, executive director, of the American Institute of Architects in Kansas (AIA Kansas.) I have provided written testimony to the committee as I am testifying on a similar bill in the House this morning.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 700 members work in over 100 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients including justice facilities, schools, hospitals and other health facilities, industrial buildings, offices, recreational facilities, housing, and much more. The rest of our members work in industry, government and education where many manage the facilities of their employers and hire private practice firms to design new buildings and to renovate or remodel existing buildings.

First let me unequivocally state that we believe the Flint Hills are a beautiful part of our state and represent a valuable historical, cultural, and economic region. However, we believe commercial wind generation can be compatible with these values.

We believe it is shortsighted and irresponsible to make wind turbine development in our state so difficult that it is tantamount to banning it. Wind is something Kansas has in abundance and it represents a clean, non-polluting, and sustainable source of electricity. It, along with other renewable sources of energy, will allow us to cut our increasing dependence on foreign and domestic fossil fuels.

Furthermore, we do not believe that the presence of wind turbines harms the landscape. As seen in Europe and other US states, these tall, stately turbines resemble slow moving sculpture and are beautiful in their own right.

AIA Kansas urges you to oppose SB455 and not only defeat these crippling requirements but support this industry that makes so much sense to us. Thank you.

*Executive Director*  
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