

March 12, 2012

House Energy and Utilizes Committee

Dear Chairman:

I very much regret I cannot attend the hearing this coming Thursday on the amendment to HB 2446, as I am strongly opposed to any roll back of Kansas' Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

Currently our state is a leader in the area of renewable energy with wind energy having a very strong focus for Kansas. This RPS greatly encourages manufacturers of renewable technology and developers of renewable energy, such as the wind farms, to continue investing in our state. I believe we have driven a considerable amount of growth in this arena over the last couple of years and in our region we are seeing the contracts and interest for renewables increase. If the House succeeds in pushing back the RPS I strongly believe you will slow the growth of this market in our state and send the wrong message to those firms and investors who are looking at our state as a location to do business.

Locally in Harvey County we are seeing an increase in investment, new jobs coming on line and have announced two major projects totaling over 700 new jobs to Kansas in the renewable manufacturing arena. I am very concerned this amendment sends the wrong message at the wrong time for us locally and ultimately for our state.

I am sorry I cannot be there to personally tell our local story but would be very happy to visit with any of you who want to hear how we in Harvey County have been investing in our future and how renewables play a very large role in this.

I do not support this amendment moving forward. If anything we should perhaps step up our RPS and encourage more growth and investment.

Kind regards,



Mickey Fornaro-Dean
Executive Director

Harvey County Economic Development Council, Inc.