

KFB and AFBF Renewable Energy Policy

(including energy and transmission regulation that impact renewable energy)

Kansas Farm Bureau

Energy

TU-6

(This is the entire section, but I have grayed out less applicable language)

We support the Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) roles in monitoring service quality and equitable rate treatment for all segments of the energy industry falling within their respective jurisdictions through statute, regulation or utility industry restructuring. During any transition period from a regulated to a deregulated market, regulatory structures and oversight should facilitate the move to a competitive market where service providers compete on a level playing field. The KCC, when asked to approve a rate increase, should not recommend a rate higher than the rate requested by the power supplier.

The Kansas Corporation Commission should be expanded from three to seven members appointed by the Governor. At least one member should represent each Kansas Congressional District with the remaining members appointed at-large. No more than four Commissioners should be from the same political party and no two members should reside in the same county.

Rules and regulations promulgated as a result of legislation, including utility industry restructuring, **should assure Kansas is not at a competitive disadvantage with any other state.**

We support:

- Development of a statewide energy plan that promotes the use of renewable energy and the use of tax credits and other incentives to achieve this plan.
- The legislature considering incentives to encourage local majority ownership and opportunities for new generation cooperatives in the production of renewable energies.
- Revenues generated from any taxes on renewable energy remaining in the taxing area where the energy is produced.
- Expansion and development of transmission capacity to create opportunities for the development of alternative energy resources across the state.
- Current law which allows excess power generated by producer owned and operated renewable energy sources to be sold to utility companies at 150% of the avoided cost of production. We encourage the practice of Net Billing as a mechanism to measure production and appropriately compensate individual producers. Net metering, if considered, should not result in negative economic impacts to neighboring consumers.
- Community and/or cooperative based renewable energy development. Schools should be encouraged to consider renewable energy development as an educational opportunity and a potential cost reducer.

This collection contains the most pertinent, but not all policy, on renewable energy and transmission. Last checked for currency on 2.28.22.

- The 25 x '25 vision of Agriculture's Role in Ensuring U.S. Energy Security which supports 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025 be produced from renewable sources.
- Increased use of nuclear and solar power generation.
- Seeking new technical advances for burying utility lines.
- Existing law which provides agricultural producers the opportunity to create non-profit utilities.
- Agriculture land with utility easements should be taxed at agriculture use value.

Property rights of all landowners in areas developed for wind power energy generation and transmission should be protected. Decisions regarding siting guidelines and other potential zoning or restrictions are best made by state government after public input and comment. Regulations should provide area landowners adequate protection of setbacks, decommissioning issues and environmental issues, but should not put Kansas at a disadvantage in developing wind energy.

The KCC will immediately notify all affected county commissions and all state legislators by certified mail when any new entity applies for and when any new entity is granted utility status. KCC must also serve same notice when any new request for new construction of over 25 miles is filed with the KCC.

Landowners should be annually compensated at comparable rates as similar structures for property condemned by utilities for new transmission lines or any other below-ground utility equipment. Transmission lines and other utilities should be situated on section lines or property lines when practical. Further, landowners and/or tenants should not be liable for unintentional or inadvertent damage to utility structures.

We oppose:

- The legitimization of "wind rights."
- The imposition of a moratorium on the production of wind energy in Kansas. Legislative or regulatory efforts should not prevent agricultural producers from voluntarily participating in this industry.

Planning and Zoning

GOV-14

Those who own or operate land should have the major responsibility for land use and development.

We urge Farm Bureau members, farmers and ranchers in every county, to become involved in planning and development of zoning ordinances to prevent undesirable land use patterns. In all governmental planning and zoning activities, agriculture must be involved and represented.

Planning and zoning activities are best addressed at the local level.

We support the statutory provisions in Kansas law to protect agricultural activities consistent with good agricultural practices from nuisance actions.

We oppose federal legislation and agency policy which would impose land use regulations as a qualification for federal grants and loans.

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We oppose federal assistance to states and local units of government for land use planning.

Private Property Rights GOV-15

We vigorously support landowners' rights. We support legislation which will prevent any increased liability for owners of land or livestock.

We oppose the imposition of a moratorium on the development of any agricultural crop or livestock production facility or operation in Kansas. Legislative or regulatory efforts should not prevent agricultural producers from voluntarily participating in coordinated, value or supply chain-based marketing mechanisms.

We adamantly oppose the imposition of a moratorium, voluntary or otherwise, on the development of commercial energy generation on private land.

American Farm Bureau Federation

SECTION 4 - ENERGY / MONETARY-TAX / MISCELLANEOUS

ENERGY

401 / Electric Power Generation

3. We support:

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3.9. States maintaining primary authority to oversee transmission siting;

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3.11. Mutually beneficial placement of infrastructure including, but not limited to, power poles, solar panels and wind turbines through consultation with the landowner when easements are obtained on private lands by public utilities.

9. Renewable Electricity

9.1. We support:

- 9.1.1. Using renewable sources of electricity such as wind, biomass, solar, tidal, hydroelectric; and methane from manure, food waste and landfills;
- 9.1.2. Using biomass fuels for electric power generation whenever economically feasible;
- 9.1.3. Developing renewable fuels, clean coal, and next generation nuclear technologies in order to keep the costs of electrical energy affordable;
- 9.1.4. Encouraging the use of switchgrass or biomass residue as a source of fly-ash in cement as an alternative to coal fly-ash. The American Society of Testing Materials should conduct research and establish cement specifications for fly-ash from co-fired electrical generation from sources other than coal;
- 9.1.5. Using electrical generation turbines at navigation dams without government regulations or permits;

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- 9.1.6. Researching and developing methods for storing electricity generated from renewable resources;
- 9.1.7. Mandating that renewable energy/electricity be purchased at a minimum of the wholesale price;
- 9.1.8. Responsible and cost-effective wind energy development, including safe siting of wind turbines in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations without imposing additional restrictions on neighbors;
- 9.1.9. The formation of an inter-agency task force to examine issues regarding industrial wind energy complexes; and
- 9.1.10. A federal (USDA or DOE) program to incentivize solar panel installation on farm buildings and bins.

402 / Energy

5. We urge Congress and the administration to enact policies that will:

...

- 5.10. Support further development of nuclear, solar, geothermal, bio-based, hydroelectric, oil shale, tar sands, wind and other sources of energy and recommend that special emphasis be given to converting to expanded use of coal, including gasification, liquefaction and alcohol production; and
- 5.11. Order a thorough economic impact study be completed to demonstrate the true benefits derived from the domestic production of renewable energy to assist in our nation becoming self-sufficient in energy production.

6. We support:

...

- 6.3. Educational programs and incentives to promote sound energy conservation renewable energy

10. Renewable Energy

- 10.1. We support:
 - 10.1.1. Incentive programs and initiatives that will increase the use of, and facilitate the local ownership of all renewable energy sources;
 - 10.1.2. Incentives for renewable energy systems in rural areas as long as it does not restrict agricultural production;
 - 10.1.3. The ownership of methane as separate from other energy resources; and
 - 10.1.4. Increased funding for the AGSTAR (methane promotion) program.

11. Solar Energy

11.1. We support:

- 11.1.1. Solar energy generation as a component of the nation's energy portfolio;
- 11.1.2. Establishment of state standards for commercial solar energy conversion systems that protect private property rights and allow for reasonable development of projects;

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- 11.1.3. Ensuring adequate funds are in place for decommissioning;
- 11.1.4. Allowing landowners the option of terminating a solar lease agreement if solar panels fail to produce energy for a period longer than 12 consecutive months; and
- 11.1.5. Efforts to locate solar energy projects on marginal or underused lands.
- 11.2. We oppose giving public utility status to solar energy or solar energy development companies.

TAXES

439 / Taxation

- 7. Environmental and Renewable Energy Tax Issues
 - 7.1. We support:
 - ...
 - 7.1.8. Tax incentives for domestic renewable power, including wind power that are calculated on a standard Btu/kwh equivalent measurement basis without regard to the materials, methods or sources;