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HB2711

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Testimony before the Kansas House Energy & Utilities Committee.

Thank you Chairman Holmes for allowing me to present my testimony here today.

My name is Donn Teske & I currently serve as Kansas Farmers Union president and I am here today to testify in opposition to HB2711.

Kansas Farmers Union policy supports renewable energy and environmental stewardship. We feel that both of these are threatened if HB2711 is passed into Kansas law.

Carbon emissions are a serious issue but water is also. In the case of the Holcomb plant the water of the Ogallala, a precious, non-renewable resource will be mined for the purpose of exporting energy out of state, whereas energy plants in other areas use surface water in which the evaporation is part of the cycle. Also there is concern about the value placed on the water.

In my opinion the renewable parts of HB2711 are pretty much token and the guidelines placed on coal generation easily met.

Of course as we all know the issue that makes HB2711 so controversial is Global warming and whether mankind is causing or contributing to it. There are a lot of pretty smart people in the world that are convinced man is causing global warming and that the future is threatened by it, and I believe them. With the fast pace of this bill through your committee I have to assume that you do not.

I hope very much that you are right and I am wrong for I worry much about my off-springs future world.

Regretfully, in this instance it will not do us any good to get back together a hundred years from now to figure out who was right. If you were right then

whatever we did was fine, however if I was right then you were a contributing factor to the ruin of your grandchildren's world when you could have been leaders in global responsibility.

During this bills discussion much has been made about off-setting and / or capturing the emissions from coal generation, partially from agricultural practices sequestration. This is an area I know a little about. Farmers Union is now, as I understand it, the largest agricultural carbon sequestration aggregator in the United States. And in Kansas I'm pretty much the guy running around for Farmers Union working on this.

But it can only do so much. To put things in perspective I hear that the proposed Sunflower project at Holcomb would emit 11 million tons of Carbon per year. Farmers Union now has 1.6 million acres of land enrolled in the Carbon Sequestration program at rates that run from .2 tons of sequestration per acre to .6 tons. If one averages them out to .4 tons per acres then the entire national program of Farmers Union to date is off-setting approximately 640,000 tons of carbon per year. This is a little under 6% of just this one proposed plants emission!!! Talk about an act of futility!

Also, the value being placed on carbon penalties in this bill is a joke and I feel would draw coal generation to Kansas like a magnet. Three dollars a ton?? Last year it was almost five dollars on the CCX and this is really just a market that is starting to get it's legs under itself. Our European neighbors are paying more like TEN times this amount! When Congress enacts a Cap & Trade how relevant do you think three dollars a ton will be?

Again, I hope you're right, otherwise I don't envy your legacy.

I urge you to stop HB2711.

Thank you and I will be happy to address any questions.