

Letter to the Editor:

After attending Tuesday night's meeting on wind energy, I gained a new respect for the farmers and ranchers of the Flint Hills. Their knowledge of agriculture and the eco-system is astounding. But it seems that the hard economy of recent years has some of them considering to lease their property to wind energy companies. I think perhaps those of us who make our living in business outside of agriculture should find a way for these ranchers and farmers to bring in more revenue without building 430 foot wind generators throughout the county.

Tuesday's article in the Republican failed to mention the young man from the wind energy company who attended the meeting, when asked if only thirty to fifty of these giant generators were all that would be placed in the county, he fell silent and would not answer. The hard truth is that once one land owner in this county gives in, others will follow and according to information given at the meeting, wind energy companies plan to put as many as fifteen hundred of them throughout the Flint Hills.

One lady at the meeting had visited the Montezuma Energy plant in Western Kansas and reported that they are not noisy and are not that visible. With all due respect to that lady, those towers are nearly 100 feet shorter and are placed in the flat landscape of Western Kansas, not perched atop the beautiful Flint Hills.

This issue affects every citizen in Council Grove and Morris County. If these monsters are installed, they will not be tucked away out of sight; not at those heights. They will not stand as shining examples of alternative energy, but as tombstones over a dead ecosystem, the tourist trade throughout the Flint Hills, and most of all, over the most fertile natural grasslands in the world.

If each of us does not get involved to stop this mistake, then we had better all plan a driving trip with our children through the Flint Hills this spring. That will enable them to tell their grandchildren about the beauty and grandeur of wide open spaces that their forefathers failed to protect.

Don Honer