

Dear Editor,

This is a response to the comment about industrial wind opponents being “outsiders.” First, the people most concerned about these wind factories in Chase County are residents of Chase County. Many can’t attend the daytime County Commission meetings because of their jobs.

These local residents are joined by others who own land in Chase County, as well as those who own land affected in neighboring counties. Remember, these 40-story turbines are so darn huge they’ll affect quality of life and land values well beyond Chase County’s borders. Don’t all these landowners have a right to try to protect their land values, too?

Second, let’s keep things straight. The “outsiders” here are the slick PR men and payoff agents of a large, non-Kansas corporation, Florida Power & Light. They are counting on Chase County to be ignorant, desperate, weak and divided—an easy target for their quick money schemes. However, these outsiders may be disappointed to learn that whether it’s a strip club called “Angels” or an industrial development called a “farm,” the people of Chase County won’t be fooled.

The word “exploitation” means “to use selfishly for one’s own ends.” Florida Power & Light wants to exploit us. They want to bribe us into giving away the most precious thing our county has—the integrity of our land. We could give in and take their money. We could also send our daughters up to work at “Angels.” What do we care? Money’s money, right?

This issue goes to our core values. How we respond to these threats in the next few weeks will write the critical chapter of our county’s history in our lifetimes. Are we for sale to the highest bidder today, and to heck with our land and our children and grandchildren?

Sincerely,
Anne B. Wilson
Elmdale, Kansas