

September 30, 2024

Dear Sedgwick County Planning Board,

We would like to throw our support behind Overland Pass Energy (OPE). A permit has been delivered to the county and has been deemed complete by the county staff, attorney and zoning/planning board.

OPE has closed their land acquisition and is now working with the landowners for setbacks and easements. So much has been accomplished and so many more goals yet to work through, but the progress continues! Sedgwick County will benefit and we encourage you to vote favorably for their special use application.

Taxpayers in Sedgwick County are voting yes to ballot issues regarding taxes. Yes to increasing sales tax, yes to increasing property taxes - yes to swimming pool; yes to RE-1 school; yes to RE-3 school; Sedgwick voted yes to marijuana. Voters have been willing to tax themselves to have opportunities---to have nice school---to have a nice pool--- to have a nice community. But Sedgwick County highest combined sales tax is one of the highest in NE Colorado and the overlapping property tax levy on landowners is also high in the state. A question for all of us is, "How many more tax increases can we saddle ourselves with before citizens can no longer carry the burden?"

The county commissioners have had to make tough financial decisions over the last 4 years to keep Sedgwick County financially viable. These decisions have not always been popular. We certainly wouldn't want to be in commissioners shoes, and we respect the decisions that have been made. It all comes down to doing what's right for the county, because the landowners who are in favor of wind towers have signed up and the landowners against wind towers have not. Whether or not landowners are in favor or against wind, the revenue created by OPE will be beneficial for ALL our citizens. The county needs to expand and build our business base. Help keep the tax burden off our purchases and landowners! We've been so dependent on our Ag sector that OPE will provide diversity in our current business base. OPE will pay well; OPE will give our kids an opportunity to find their way back home; Northeastern Junior College sees the opportunities wind energy has in NE Colorado and offers classes and certification degrees.

Can you imagine what Sedgwick County can do by voting yes to OPE application? We will see an increase in employment, an increase in our median household dollars from \$45,855.00, (which is ½ of the amount in Colorado) and an increase to our county coffers, which will be used for the benefit of all citizens.

Sincerely,

Randy and Anna Scott