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Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association Calls for Postponement of State Wind Lease Auctions

OCA raises concerns over agricultural lease protections, private property rights, and local economic impacts.

[Oklahoma City, OK – Nov. 19, 2026] – The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is calling on the Oklahoma Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) to postpone its December 7, 2026, auction of seven proposed wind energy leases encompassing approximately 169,000 acres of state trust land in Cimarron County.

In a letter to CLO Acting Secretary John Fischer and the five Commissioners, OCA expressed concerns regarding the proposed 55-year commercial leases and their potential impacts on existing agricultural operations, private property rights, and surrounding communities.

"Our concern is not with wind energy development itself. We have consistently defended the rights of private property owners to determine the best use of their land," said Ford Drummond, OCA President. "However, when the state considers committing this much land to 55-year agreements, it has a responsibility to thoroughly evaluate the consequences for agricultural producers and neighboring landowners."

Of primary concern is how the proposed 55-year wind leases would interact with existing agricultural leases, which are limited to five-year terms. OCA questions how agricultural lessees will be protected when conflicts arise over property access, construction activities, infrastructure placement, compensation for damages, and future agricultural improvements.

OCA also raised concerns regarding the transmission infrastructure that may be necessary to deliver electricity generated by the proposed developments. Additional transmission lines could require easements across privately owned agricultural lands, potentially involving the use of eminent domain authority. OCA is requesting additional information regarding anticipated transmission routes, interconnection arrangements, and potential impacts on private landowners.

"Ranchers leasing state land make significant investments in their operations, yet they operate under five-year agreements while a wind developer could receive rights extending more than half a century," Drummond said. "We need to understand how those rights will coexist and whether additional transmission infrastructure could place private landowners in the position of having to defend their property rights."

The association also questioned whether Cimarron County and its residents would receive economic benefits proportionate to the impacts of the proposed developments.

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Unlike wind projects on privately owned property, where landowners typically receive direct lease payments, revenues from these state trust land agreements would benefit the designated educational trusts. While wind energy equipment and improvements may generate local property tax revenue, OCA believes the overall economic impacts warrant further examination. OCA is requesting that the CLO postpone the auctions until it can provide greater clarity regarding agricultural lease protections, anticipated transmission infrastructure, local economic impacts, and opportunities for affected landowners and communities to provide input.

"We recognize the CLO's responsibility to generate revenue for Oklahoma's educational institutions, but the financial return cannot be the only consideration," Drummond said. "We are simply asking the Commissioners to slow down, provide answers to these legitimate questions, and allow the people who could be affected for decades to have their concerns heard before these leases are awarded."

The OCA is the trusted voice of the Oklahoma cattle industry and works to protect and empower Oklahoma cattlemen today, to serve tomorrow. OCA is the only voice that speaks solely for the cattlemen of Oklahoma and represents beef producers in all 77 counties across the state. For more information about OCA membership, the theft reward program or activities, call 405-235-4391 or visit okcattlemen.org.

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