

OKLAHOMA CITY — At a legislative hearing Tuesday that began with a congressman's dire warnings, state lawmakers debated whether further regulation of wind turbines is necessary to prevent interference with military air space. The House Transportation Committee spent five hours listening to military officials concerned about turbines, wind energy experts who see no need for further regulation, and agricultural groups worried about their property rights. The hearing began with recorded testimony from U.S. Rep. Steve Russell, R-Oklahoma City, who said the construction of wind turbines near Oklahoma's military bases could make those bases vulnerable to closure. He accused wind companies of refusing to consider the ramifications of their development. "This is not a property rights issue. This is a national security issue," Russell said.