

Letter to the Editor: Topeka Capital Journal

Preserve the prairie

In his book “Prairy Erth,” the wonderful William Least Heat-Moon sings the praises of the glory of the prairie lands. Part of our tallgrass prairies are under a federal trust through the efforts of Nancy Kassebaum Baker and others.

It would probably be an impossible dream to turn all of the Flint Hills into a national park. If only Peggy Greene were still here to spearhead such a dream.

The Flint Hills! A glorious stretch of land some people call the heart of Kansas. Symphonies have been composed in honor of this land; paintings have been made to showcase it. It is a land where the wind – not used for practical, money-making purposes – runs free and wild; where one man, a nostalgic New Yorker, said, “A person can stand and gaze off into the far horizons stretching forever as if he were on the ocean.”

Do we really want to take a highway out of Topeka some Sunday afternoon intent on filling our eyes and hearts with beautiful Kansas stretches of countryside – and then suddenly confront the horizon cluttered up with big business windmills?

--JOELLA BROWN, Topeka