

# Submission of Comments for the US House of Representatives House Ways & Means Committee Energy Tax Reform Working Group

Submitted April 15, 2013 by Richard Boris, Village of Lee, President/Mayor

It is respectfully requested that Congress terminate the Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy for reasons contained in my comments below and for other reasons that my brief comments excluded.

Brief background: Unlike many of the persons who respond to “green” energy surveys, in the elected office I serve, I have direct experience with two wind turbine companies. I have attended and participated in many wind turbine Hearings including serving as the Hearing chairman for the proposed sitting of six wind turbines near our Village. After assessing the advertised benefits, payments offered and the adverse effects of the proposed six wind turbines (and others that would likely follow) our Village’s six Trustees unanimously voted no to them in 2009. I am hopeful that that the House that your Working Group, Committee, the House & Senate also vote no to the Wind PTC.

The concentrated puffing of wind energy sweeps “under the rug” the unadvertised adverse effects on living creatures including sleep deprivation and in some cases health issues. Subsidies for this and other mature energy industries should be terminated promptly before more micro and macro collateral damage to our economy. Some wind industry sponsored studies show there is no adverse effect on residences but those studies typically dilute the data from the high impact first mile from a wind turbine with data from residences several miles away.

Wind energy will significantly increase energy costs and that will reduce the disposable income of our citizens; that will further increase unemployment. What is sorely needed is an objective 3<sup>rd</sup> party Performance Audit of wind energy costs including its adverse effects, the extensive litigation it creates, and its advertised and actual benefits

Why would we, as a nation, continue to use scarce funding to heavily subsidize part-time, intermittent, wind energy that produces most of its electrical energy during nighttime and early morning off peak usage times when we should be funding the replacement of our aging energy plants that can provide energy 24/7? Wind by itself is not an answer to our energy needs; wind requires in most cases running reserve fossil fuel plants that can be quickly switched to serve the electrical grid when the wind energy drops off. It is not uncommon for wind energy not to be put on the grid (curtailed) because it can cause grid management and maintenance issues.

Most hours of the month Illinois is a net electrical energy exporter because of our nuclear plants. With land hungry wind turbines that are creating economic development dead-zones and the land locking of municipalities and future development, how is Illinois or other states benefiting in the short-term and long term? Illinois is now being affected by the adverse effects of wind turbines which have been suppressed by wind contracts that contain confidentiality clauses; if these clauses are suppressing the adverse effects from being communicated to decision-makers isn’t that be a violation of public policy?

Pictures of melting icebergs have been used to alarm uninformed citizens about global warming which hasn’t occurred in more than 15 years. The alarmists are now using the term “climate change”: where is any objective third-party scientific evidence that the use of carbon fuels creates climate change?

As I follow the money, one premise that arises is that the primary benefit of wind turbines for the chosen few is not to produce electricity but to produce PTCs. The significant subsidies to wind energy is being promoted by financial and other corporations that significantly benefit by buying the production tax credits at perhaps 50%(?) of the value received in decreasing their federal tax liability, which taxpayers wouldn't observe. The US Treasury then receives significantly less income from those entities that use the PTCs; what 3<sup>rd</sup> party is auditing the creation and use of PTCs?

If the White House and the homes of all State Governors only received electrical energy from wind turbines the residents therein would be in the dark many more hours of the days and nights.

In Illinois, tax levy amounts that access the new property of wind turbines typically increase by CPI each year, while the wind turbines have net depreciation each year down to a floor of 30%. This appears to be a back-door property tax increases to the residents of Illinois; as the wind turbines depreciate, tax levies increased by CPI shift to the other taxpayers in the taxing entities.

The IPA Electricity Procurement Plan is based on the Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard requirement that 25 % of Illinois Electricity to be from renewables and 75 % of that from wind. From my experience, many of the wind companies are foreign corporations even though they say they are based in Chicago or elsewhere in the U.S. It also appears that most of the industrial wind turbines are also produced in foreign countries. I guess we should pat ourselves on the back for being such good global partners but what does this do to our Balance of Payments? Please also note that not all foreign wind companies are our allies but they will have access to our electrical grid(s).

I would be willing to come to testify and answer questions to further clarify what is actually happening in rural Illinois.

Thank you for your investment of time in reading these comments.

Please also note I know and I have read the more technical and more thorough submission of Ms. Carolyn Gerwin to the Energy Tax Reform Working Group and I concur with the points she has made based on my experience and research.

Respectfully submitted.

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