

Submitted Testimony of the Harvest the Wind Network
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Organization: Harvest the Wind Network (HTWN)

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I am Miranda Ellis, the Director of Finance of Harvest the Wind Network. I submit this testimony in that capacity.

Harvest the Wind Network is a national leader in the sales and installation of distributed wind energy projects.

- “Distributed wind” involves the use of typically smaller wind turbines at homes, farms, businesses, and public facilities to off-set all or a portion of on-site energy consumption as well as projects with local ownership, or "community" wind.
- Distributed wind is a dynamic and growing segment of the renewable energy industry.
- Distributed wind power is often owned and used by energy consumers at or near the site of generation, which means:
 - Deployment of distributed wind power can reduce the need for new centralized generation and transmission facilities; and
 - Local investors help drive localized employment and economic benefits.
- Distributed wind projects often rely heavily on the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) to finance their projects and installation. This is because:
 - Many Renewable energy investors cannot take advantage of the Production Tax Credit (PTC) unless the energy generated from that project is sold to a third party. Because distributed generation is designed to be consumed on-site and is seldom sold to a third party PTCs are not generally available to small wind project developers.
 - The PTC can only be used to offset passive income. This feature generally does not impede large, institutional investors, because they routinely realize significant passive income that can be offset by a PTC. However, because many potential investors in small, community or distributed wind projects have inadequate or no passive income, they are precluded from taking advantage of this tax credit, making the ITC much more attractive and valuable to the distributed wind industry.
 - Finally, and relatedly, in order to fully realize the significant multiplier effect of small, distributed wind projects on local economies, and minimize any concerns to new wind projects, it is ideal to develop a broad pool of local investors. If they are unable to utilize the PTC and the ITC is allowed to expire, this financial and personal support will not materialize and projects will not get done. Jobs will be lost.

- Renewing the ITC for land-based wind power is also a matter of parity and fairness.
- Solar photovoltaic projects of any size are currently eligible for an ITC through 2016 and are widely used in distributed applications.
- Extending the ITC for wind through 2016 creates a level playing field among competing renewable technologies and allows the customer to determine the optimal technology selection for a given site.

History

BTI Wind Energy is one of the many success stories that was born in the aftermath of total devastation. On May 4th, 2007, Greensburg, KS was completely destroyed by one of the most powerful tornados ever documented. Along with every other business in Greensburg, the tornado completely destroyed the dealership, all of its inventory, and the largest employer in town. The small Southwest Kansas town resolved to rebuild as the “greenest city” in America. Led by President Kelly Estes and General Manager Mike Estes, BTI Inc. was reborn, and the business opened with a new addition, BTI Wind Energy LLC.

BTI Wind Energy formed The Harvest the Wind Network of dealers to sell, service, and support wind energy products across North America. This network was started as an effort to show the world what renewable energy can do for local business, homes, schools, hospitals and many more, just as it did in Greensburg. The Harvest the Wind Network believes in implementing wind energy effectively throughout North America and bringing green economic benefits to local communities.

About HTWN

Harvest the Wind Network (HTWN) is comprised of 13 independent dealer groups throughout the United States and Canada who provide wind energy solutions from residential to community wind projects. Each independent dealer group has dedicated wind specialists and technicians trained and supported by Harvest the Wind Network. Service training efforts are supported by our equipment partners in partnership with local community colleges. Each award winning HTWN dealer has been established and doing business in their local communities for an average of 50 years. Customer service, support and loyalty are the networks’ ambitions and goals. Gaining momentum very quickly, HTWN currently has installed and is servicing over 125 turbines. Our nationwide pipeline is in excess of a 100 projects ranging in size from 50kW to 10MW slated for installation during the next 18 months. Please visit our website at www.harvestthewindnetwork.com, to view installed projects and current projects under construction.

Conclusion

You can see how important an extension of the ITC election is to our network and end customers throughout the United States for the reasons stated above. We encourage the House Ways and Means Committee to approve and submit to the full House of Representatives legislation that would extend the \$ 48 ITC (Investment Tax Credit) election through 2016 for wind power projects of all sizes. Extending the ITC election will support a fair, competitive renewable energy market, encourage technology advancement, and provide stability to the distributed and community wind industry. The ITC election extension will foster energy independence for rural and local communities, driving local and national

economic growth and job creation throughout the United States. We believe in the benefits of wind energy and we believe distributed wind energy is our future.

Thank you again for your time and consideration of these comments. We look forward to the expansion of the American wind industry and our joint efforts to devise effective policy.

Sincerely,

Miranda Ellis

Director of Finance

Harvest the Wind Network