

April 12, 2013

Representative Kevin Brady, Chair and Representative Mike Thompson, Vice Chair

Please stop giving away our tax dollars via the wind Production Tax Credit (PTC) program. Let the program end with 2013 under current law, and **do not allow an extension of the PTC in any package of tax extenders should the House consider one later this year.**

We tax payers have spent billions of dollars into subsidizing "green energy" sources. Federal subsidies for wind have grown to \$4.98 billion per year today. However, wind remains an intermittent resource; the wind does not blow all the time, and wind farms do not produce power constantly the way traditional power plants do.

The wind energy production tax credit, established by the Energy Policy Act of 1992 provides wind energy producers a 2.2 cent subsidy for every kilowatt hour of electricity produced. The subsidy attaches to a wind farm when it is built and continues for its first ten years of operation. **A one-year extension of the PTC costs American taxpayers over \$12 billion.**

Even if the PTC expires, a wind farm built in 2013 will continue to receive subsidies until 2023 and, as a consequence, the bipartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that will add \$6.8 billion to the deficit between 2011 and 2015. Today, when the U.S. is more than \$16 trillion in debt and borrowing \$0.40 of every dollar it spends, we cannot afford to borrow money to subsidize the operations of a politically preferred technology.

Since the PTC provides a tax benefit for new projects, it often drives wind developers to build projects with little regard to consumer demand, as long as they can be placed on line and their power brought to market to collect the subsidy. Many families who live near these machines have been hurt because these machines are built where they don't belong.

It is time for the federal government to stop subsidizing the energy marketplace. Twenty one years of subsidizing wind is more than enough especially considering that the federal funds are coming from multiple sources. We can no longer afford to subsidize this industry - especially when Wind Turbines are less than 30% efficient.

The PTC should expire at the end of the year under current law.

Thank you for your consideration and do the right thing for America and the American Taxpayer.

John Gebhardt,
