

Tax Reform Ways and Means Committee --- Please let the Wind Production Tax Credit expire.

PTC for wind energy is a wasteful taxpayer expense. Wind energy is intermittent and cannot reliably replace other electric energy. It is an expensive non-green, non-solution to our energy needs.

The PTC and any other government tax dollar directed at wind energy interfere with finding true solutions to alternative energy. Let the market place find true workable solutions. Stop subsidizing wind energy at these ridiculous disproportionate levels. Wind energy has already received a 545 million dollar advantage. Wind energy costs \$52 for every million watt hours of wind energy produced versus 63 cents for this same energy generated by natural gas and coal. Better yet, stop subsidizing all electric energy sources. Let the free market decide how our energy is best supplied. Let free market create incentive to technology advances.

We are covering our country with these massive failures because wind companies can collect government money for projects doomed to fail. It is frightful what will happen to these future massive hunks of junk when they don't produce the energy promised. Grand Meadow Project, Dexter, MN, had line transmission line failure its first year and 10% turbine failure by its third year of operation. At this point turbines are mostly getting bigger with little major technology change. They are being erected in areas of average wind. They are best suited to sparsely populated areas, so the energy must be transmitted to where the electricity is needed, which causes more cost in transmission lines.

We will not solve climate change with an alternative energy that does not work. After we have covered our country with these inefficient machines, there will not be space for any true solutions. Put government money towards research. Keep government subsidies out of wind projects, out of wind company executive's pockets, and out of foreign company profits. We wish for clean wind energy when we do not account for the rare earth metals and energy necessary to build the components. We say no to electricity produced by natural gas or coal in our country under strict pollution controls, while allowing other countries to produce electricity and wind turbine components without pollution controls. We kill our wildlife with turbine blades hoping the pitiful wind electrical output will help our wildlife environment. All the costs of wind energy must be accounted for. Fixing 6 of 67 turbines after 3 years of use, with 22 semi loads of crane equipment is not green. Green jobs for costly repairs are not productive jobs.

Wind jobs created are costly (\$743,000 each in Spain). Inefficient wind energy causes electric rates to rise, causing two jobs lost for every wind energy job gained. Do not let United States go the route of Spain, Greece, Italy and Germany, where electric rates have risen dramatically. Many of these countries are seeing direct impacts on their economies because of soaring electric rates. Already Minnesota Rural Electric Cooperatives are seeing 10% rate increases directly the result of wind energy that is more costly than other sources, is supplied when there is no need for extra electricity and not available when needed. On July 12, 2012, Idaho Power had 440 MW installed wind energy, but received only 14 MW, that is only 3% efficiency, not the 25-38% promised by most wind companies.

Our country faces serious budget problems, many caused by excessive spending. Do not waste tax dollars (24 billion dollars so far) on this ridiculous folly of PTC for wind energy.

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