

## WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

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The failure rate, in what might be called “the arena of renewables,” has been spectacular. Bad ideas should be expected to fare poorly in the real world and that has been the case with solar and wind energy production. That of course is the problem with providing tax credits to encourage the development of things that would otherwise never exist. Providing tax credits to force use of the wind to generate electrical energy in the United States is beyond absurd. Absurd carries a connotation that the subject at hand is somewhat benign yet silly and wasteful. Wind turbines are beyond silly and wasteful, and anything but benign. These developments not only fleece the taxpayers to raise the money needed to install something that represents the poorest possible process, it then victimizes rate payers, kills raptors and bats and results in a net decrease in air quality. These results may be the best part of wind generation. Beyond that they produce the lowest quality energy we have ever attempted to inject onto the electrical grid.

I have a friend who, when asked about his farming operations, said, “I farm the government”. He put his land in the CRP program for many years, another costly ill-conceived government boondoggle. Now he has applied to receive the subsidies associated with the installation of wind turbines. He clearly recognizes that this is another government scam that only costs money and provides no net value. He has no philosophical interest in wind energy, but if the government wants to hand out free cash in the form of subsidies and tax credits and you are in the position to exploit the opportunity; why not take the benefits?

With over \$17 trillion in federal debt, high unemployment and half of the population receiving a subsidy of some kind from the government something has to give. All wind energy production accomplishes is higher power rates. If there was ever a government program that is crying to be eliminated it is the Wind Energy PTC. The only justification for continuation of this program is the elimination of political pressure from those seeking to tap large sums of money out of the federal government. Like so many federal programs, the taxpayers would come out ahead if every one who wanted to put up a wind turbine simply got paid to do nothing. Come to think about, that is already the logic behind many costly federal programs. I do not recommend it, but it is better than forcing tax payers to put up more wind turbines that will most likely all have to be taken down, (likely at government expense) during the next decade. I do not think that is quite what Obama was referring to when he talked about “shovel ready jobs.”