Written Comments for the Record: Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions

House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures

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DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability (DNV KEMA) urges the U.S. Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible. DNV KEMA, with more than 2,300 experts in over 30 countries around the world, is committed to driving the global transition toward a safe, reliable, efficient, and clean energy future. With a heritage of nearly 150 years, we specialize in providing world-class, innovative solutions in the fields of business and technical consultancy, testing, inspections & certification, risk management, and verification. We advise and support organizations along the energy value chain: producers, suppliers & end-users of energy, equipment manufacturers, as well as government bodies, corporations and non-governmental organizations. DNV KEMA Energy & Sustainability is part of DNV, a global provider of services for managing risk with more than 10,000 employees in over 100 countries.

DNV KEMA’s Cleaner Energy Services business line includes over 250 people who provide consulting services specifically to the wind energy industry, including engineers, scientists, analysts, and support personnel. In the US, we have wind energy specialists in our offices in Seattle, Boston, Houston, and the San Francisco Bay area. Additional personnel from other departments and offices within the company contribute to our wind energy work to provide support in areas such as composites and materials, maritime and offshore expertise, grid integration, structural analysis, and numerical modeling, and other disciplines.

Over the last year, we have had to reduce our wind energy staff in the US by approximately 15%, as uncertainty over the extension of the wind energy PTC began to reduce the amount of pre-development activity on wind projects. In addition, we’ve sent many of our wind energy experts to work in other offices in Europe, South America, and Asia to support our growing business in these geographic reasons. Without the PTC extension, a significant amount of additional jobs will be at risk. These positions are filled by well-educated, highly-skilled
technical professionals. We urge the Ways and Means Committee to take up the PTC extension right away in order to save these jobs.

DNV KEMA has been actively involved in the global wind energy industry for over 25 years. The PTC has been the most effective policy mechanism to grow the wind industry in the US. In just the past five years, while the PTC has been continuously available, over 35,000 MW of wind energy has been installed. During this time, wind energy has accounted for 35% of all new electric generating capacity in the US. This growth has been complimented by technology advances and innovation that has increased the efficiency and reduced the cost of wind turbines significantly. Although the US has been viewed as a world leader in wind energy, we are now in danger of losing our position in the global marketplace as the US faces a standstill in development without the PTC extension. Over 70 countries now generate wind energy and China has surpassed the US in installed wind energy capacity.

In addition to the PTC, 29 states have enacted renewable energy standards. In combination, these two policies have driven the industry’s growth. For companies considering investments in the U.S., a federal PTC in addition to existing state standards is critical to providing them with the confidence to make these multi-million dollar capital investments.

Wind energy is widely supported by US citizens and is viewed as a true success story. As an indigenous natural resource, wind energy addresses concerns about energy security, climate change, and diversification of our energy generation. It acts as a hedge against future fuel price increases, creates jobs, and brings additional revenue streams to our rural communities. We need consistent federal policy to help the wind industry continue to thrive in the US. DNV KEMA urges Congress to take swift action to extend the PTC to ensure the continued growth of the US wind industry.