

To:
Ways and Means Committee

May 4, 2012

Re: Hearing on Certain expiring Tax Provisions

My name is Glen Bridges, and I live in a small, rural Maine town. Since 2008 we have been the proud supporters of just three 1.5 MW wind turbines. Every day these majestic machines churn out enough clean electricity to power 2000 homes. And every year they pay about \$150,000 in property taxes.

During construction the developers poured millions of dollars into the local economy to truckers, road builders, construction companies, engineers, etc., and now provide employment for a number of people for maintenance, snow plowing, management, and mechanical engineering.

This industry has poured over a billion dollars into the Maine economy in recent years, providing the only bright spot for future industry and future jobs in Maine, not to mention the benefit to our environment, and the avoidance of fossil fuel use.

The vision in Maine is to have turbines manufactured here, and to export and to be installed here. A deep-water offshore wind project is planned for the future. So far we only have about 200 turbines installed; with a vast area of nearly 31,000 sq. miles, we have room for thousands of turbines.

Nationwide, wind development is in its infancy. This ingenious passive use of wind as a cost-free fuel will never be subject to the whims of the Middle East. As you no doubt know, the USA is far behind Europe and China in developing wind power. It is shameful that we are not the world leaders.

I believe that the wind industry needs the boost of the PTC, as long and until wind power is supplying enough power to shut down all of the polluting coal plants. How long has the oil industry been benefiting from tax incentives/credits? Shouldn't clean, efficient energy be given the same "leg up" and for the same number of years?

We cannot afford NOT to do this. I urge your committee to take up the extension of the wind energy production tax credit as soon as possible, and vote to recommend extension. We cannot keep going backwards in our attitude toward energy, and our concerns should be for a cleaner environment, not for the obscene profits of Exxon Oil et al.

Thank you for your consideration.

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