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United States House of Representatives
Ways and Means Committee
Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions

I, Michael Geline, a professor of mathematics in DeKalb, Illinois respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

Electricity generated from wind turbines is clean. It has no impact on the nation's already stretched fresh water resources, and it does not release mercury or sulfur-dioxide into the environment. It does not require the extraction, processing, or transportation of any fuel, and it does not produce greenhouse gases.

I believe these facts easily justify a tax break for the wind industry.

The states of Iowa and South Dakota have already demonstrated that it is possible to generate at least 20% of our electricity from wind. This progress has been made in a relatively short period of time and against competition from fossil fuels which receive large, often hidden, subsidies of their own. Thus, with a long-term favorable tax policy, there is little question that the wind industry could reproduce this figure nationwide.

It is unfortunate that certain Members of Congress cite cost as reason to discontinue the PTC. Beyond the tens of thousands of jobs that will be lost immediately if the PTC expires, I challenge the Committee to put a price on long-term health problems caused by pollution. The PTC is cheap by comparison.