

April 25, 2012

Extend the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit

To the Committee on Ways and Means:

We, Robert Hall and Maureen McGee, respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

We purchased our wind turbine in 2009. The price tag was about \$16K installed. After the state and federal tax credits and rebates from our electric company, our out of pocket expense was about \$4800.00. Without the energy production tax credit, our ability to afford the turbine would not have been a reasonable financial burden for us.

We are conservative with our energy use as it is, but we generate about half our usage with the turbine. If we look at the cost of the per kilowatt use, it will take us about 14 years to pay it back.

But we believe that the true cost of electricity is not reflected in our electric bill. There are many more costs associated with generating electricity through coal, natural gas, nuclear and river damming. Those costs are passed off to all of us through health care costs for miners and workers in these dangerous jobs and the pollution to our air, mercury in the water and fish that we eat, the risks and unknowns of what to do with the nuclear waste, and the loss of free rivers throughout the world. When we consider those costs, our wind turbine is priceless.

We feel fortunate that we were in a position financially that we could make a small sacrifice of not purchasing things that would have given us a short-term pleasure -- boats, cars, etc. We realize not everyone is in a position to make this investment, but we felt the responsibility since we had the means.

We urge the committee to take up an extension of the wind energy production tax credit right away.

Sincerely,

Robert Hall
Maureen McGee
5905 Buckboard Tr
Flagstaff, AZ 86004
928-526-2623
justrobhall@msn.com

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