

April 24, 2012

Re: Wind energy production credit

The PTC should be extended as soon as possible. The business people who have invested in the Wind Power industry should be able to make long range plans which will enable the businesses to make the most of every dollar. And employees should be able to know where their job will be 'next month'. And we certainly don't want to lose any more jobs in our economic struggles now.

I am a believer in the idea that our country should have diversity in our means of producing power. We have to use our creative abilities to "cover all the bases" when planning for our needs in the future. As with any issue, it's never a good idea to be so narrowly focused on one path to energy, that we leave ourselves and our future Americans overly dependent on one method for fulfilling those needs. We all know that monopolies are not good for competitive pricing and innovation. Being able to know that we can keep our businesses, homes and machines, hospitals, etc. operable is the responsible, 'good management' way of taking care of our business...of running our country.

I lived in Odessa Texas for 11 years, and was continually frustrated by the smell of the petrochemical plant nearby. Depending on the wind direction, the whole city would have rotten egg smell all day. And in addition, the environment was damaged and cluttered with that the equipment needed to produce oil and gas. So when we drove I-20 highway from Dallas recently and saw the huge wind industry equipment my first reaction was to remark that this equipment is so much better than the oil industry or coal industry footprint. It certainly isn't invisible, but I sure couldn't smell it, and while there were hundreds of wind turbines, the landscape looked a little surreal, but not nasty and cluttered. No energy source development can avoid affecting it's surroundings, but we must address the size of the affect.

Thank you for your time to read my remarks. And please make the best decision for our country's future financially and environmentally.

Sharon Stevenson