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Re: Hearing on Certain Expiring Tax Provisions

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I respectfully urge Congress to extend the wind energy production tax credit (PTC) as quickly as possible.

The long project development and manufacturing lead times for wind energy projects mean that the PTC has already effectively expired. Right now, wind project developers are not making plans in the U.S. and American manufacturers are not receiving orders. The wind industry is facing the recurrence of the boom-bust cycle it has seen in previous years when the PTC was allowed to expire. In the years following expiration, installations dropped between 73 and 93%, with corresponding job losses. I don't want this to happen again.

Equipped with the PTC, the wind energy industry has contributed impressively to U.S. economic development. The PTC has been instrumental in helping the wind industry to:

- Lower the cost of wind power by more than 90%
- Manufacture components for wind turbines at over 400 U.S. manufacturing facilities
- Power the equivalent of 10 million American homes
- Provide 35% of all new U.S. power capacity in the past four years

In short, the PTC drives billions of dollars in private investment in American wind power—and thus the American economy—each year. Increasing the amount of power that we get from clean, affordable resources *that will never run out* is a no-brainer. This tax credit provides the extra help for the wind industry to continue to do just that.

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

Thank you for considering this comment.

Sincerely,

V. Brandt