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November 13, 2012

The Honorable Terry Branstad
Chairman
Governors' Wind Energy Coalition
2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 102-22
Arlington, VA 22201-3324

The Honorable John Kitzhaber
Vice Chairman
Governors' Wind Energy Coalition
2200 Wilson Blvd, Suite 102-22
Arlington, VA 22201-3324

Dear Governor Branstad and Governor Kitzhaber,

I am writing to convey my support for your efforts to highlight the importance of America's wind energy industry. Today, that industry represents more than 50,000 megawatts of installed capacity and employs some 75,000 workers. It has the potential to provide several times those numbers, but future growth has been jeopardized by the impending expiration of the Federal production tax credit at the end of the year. While no industry should count on permanent subsidies from taxpayers, the wind industry has made significant progress on reaching economies of scale and efficiency as new, larger, more advanced wind turbines reach the market. The overnight elimination of the tax credit would jeopardize this growing American industry and cede future development of this technology to overseas competitors.

In addition to direct jobs, wind power has also provided important economic opportunities to rural counties in our state of Oregon and around the country through lease payments to land owners and in tax revenue. In some counties, such as Sherman County in Oregon, wind farm investment has made a substantial change in the ability of rural areas to provide basic services and economic livelihood.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I have supported the Committee's efforts to extend the production tax credit in the near term to allow this industry to expand the use of clean, renewable energy technologies, including wind. I commend you and the Governors' Wind Energy Coalition for your advocacy of this important technology and the jobs it represents.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

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