

October 20, 2011

The Honorable Al Franken  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken and Senator Tester:

We thank you for introducing the “Community Wind Act” and endorse this important bill. As you know, this legislation would allow wind projects with a capacity of less than 20 megawatts (MW) to become eligible for the 30% business investment tax credit (ITC) that is in place through 2016 for solar, distributed wind, and geothermal technologies. By changing the tax incentive available to community wind projects from a production tax credit (PTC) to an ITC, the community wind sector will continue to grow.

Community wind projects are smaller and locally owned. These smaller wind farms fit in seamlessly with rural communities and enjoy local support during development. The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) defines all wind farms with a capacity of less than 20 megawatts as community wind, provided that they meet certain community support or community benefit criteria.

Due to their smaller size, community wind developments face higher up-front equipment and transactional costs per megawatt of capacity. Oftentimes, institutional wind energy investors are reluctant to provide financing for these complex, relatively small transactions. Developers of these smaller projects also face difficulties in buying a small number of turbines from equipment manufacturers and in many cases cannot effectively use the PTC currently available to larger wind farms. For these reasons, changing the tax incentive for community wind projects from a PTC to an ITC would keep this important segment of renewable energy production growing.

Local ownership of renewable energy, community wind specifically, further enhances renewable energy’s impact on local economies. This happens because the profits generated from renewable energy production are recycled back into the community, which results in increased economic activity and job creation.

Again, thank you for your leadership in promoting community wind development by introducing the “Community Wind Act.”

Sincerely,

Winds of Change Leaseholding, LLC, Gentry, AR  
Distributed Wind Energy Association, Flagstaff, AZ  
California Wind Energy Association, Berkeley, CA  
Debenham Energy LLC, Lakeside, CA  
Eco & Associates, Inc., Orange, CA  
enXco, San Diego, CA

Colorado Renewable Energy Society, Denver, CO  
juwi Wind, Boulder, CO  
Greenman Financial Advisors, Denver, CO  
Harvesting Energy Network, Denver, CO  
Interwest Energy Alliance, Denver, CO  
Chimney Rock Capital Partners LLC, Denver, CO  
DisGen, Lakewood, CO  
New Centennial Power, Lakewood, CO  
Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Denver, CO  
Noble Environmental Power, Essex, CT  
RENEW New England, Madison, CT  
Marino Crane Service, Middletown, CT  
American Corn Growers Association, Washington, DC  
American Wind Energy Association, Washington, DC  
Johnson Controls, Inc., Washington, DC  
Minnesota Farmers Union, Washington, DC  
National Farmers Union, Washington, DC  
Deakins Logistic Group, Jacksonville, FL  
Hawaii Pacific Energy Group, Honolulu, HI  
Hawaiian Crane & Rigging, Kapolei, HI  
Iowa Environmental Council, Des Moines, IA  
Maharishi University of Management, Fairfield, IA  
Wind Utility Consulting, Jamaica, IA  
Acterra Group, Inc., Marion, IA  
Iowa Wind Energy Association, Milford, IA  
VanWall Group, Perry, IA  
AB Wind Energy, Ashmore, IL  
Midwest Underground Technology, Champaign, IL  
Environmental Law and Policy Center, Chicago, IL  
Goldwind USA, Inc., Chicago, IL  
Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation, Chicago, IL  
Tick Tock Energy, Effingham, IL  
Broadwind Energy, Naperville, IL  
Performance Services Indianapolis, IN  
Harvest the Wind Network, Greensburg, KS  
GBA Companies, Lenexa, KS  
Walton Construction - a CORE Company, Lenexa, KS  
Enertech, Newton, KS  
Great Plains Alliance for Clean Energy, Topeka, KS  
Kansas Farmers Union, Wheaton, KS  
Kansas Rural Center, Whiting, KS  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA  
Boreal Renewable Energy Development, Arlington, MA  
Northern Green, LLC, Boston, MA  
Vergnet Americas, Cambridge, MA  
Salah and Pecci Crane Leasing, Canton, MA

Palmer Capital, Cohasset, MA  
JK Scanlan, East Falmouth, MA  
Williams Stone Co, Inc, East Otis, MA  
Ameresco, Framingham, MA  
Minuteman Wind, LLC, Framingham, MA  
Richard C. Gross P.E., Inc, Framingham, MA  
Eos Ventures, Hancock, MA  
O'Connell Energy Group, Holyoke, MA  
Power Engineers, LLC, Kingston, MA  
Mass Muni Wholesale Elec, Ludlow, MA  
SNE, Marlborough, MA  
Norwell Energy Committee, Norwell, MA  
Zenergy, LLC, Orleans, MA  
Gable Electric, Pittsfield, MA  
Aeronautica Windpower, LLC, Plymouth, MA  
Glynn Electric, Plymouth, MA  
Jay Cashman Construction, Quincy, MA  
Patriot Renewables, Quincy, MA  
Keystone Engineering, Rowley, MA  
Atlantic Design Engineers, LLC, Sandwich, MA  
ECHO for Sustainable Development, Springfield, MA  
Guntlow and Associates, Inc., Williamstown, MA  
25x'25, Lutherville, MD  
Atech Energy, Multiple Locations, MD  
Community Energy Partners, Freeport, ME  
Cianbro, Portland, ME  
CCB Inc., Westbrook, ME  
Flexsys Wind Energy, Lowell, MI  
Mackinaw Power, Lowell, MI  
Kenersys Americas, Troy, MI  
First Farmers & Merchant Banks, Austin, MN  
Abaris EC, LLC, Barnesville, MN  
Paradis Trucking, Inc., Brooks, MN  
Hoerauf Consulting, Inc., Chaska, MN  
EVS Engineering, Eden Prairie, MN  
Wind Energy America Inc., Eden Prairie, MN  
Truck Crane Service, Egan, MN  
Fagen Inc., Granite Falls, MN  
Donaldson Co., Hastings, MN  
Grant County Wind LLC, Hoffman, MN  
Olsen Electric, Jasper, MN  
IPS Trico, Litchfield, MN  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, Mankato, MN  
Pinnical Engineering, Maple Grove, MN  
Boulay, Heutmaker, Zibell & Co LLP, Minneapolis, MN  
Fredrickson and Byron PA, Minneapolis, MN

Iberdorla Renewables, Minneapolis, MN  
Industrial Supply Co., Minneapolis, MN  
Institute for Local Self Reliance, Minneapolis, MN  
Jeffery Paulson & Associates, Minneapolis, MN  
Knutson Construction, Minneapolis, MN  
League of Rural Voters, Minneapolis, MN  
Lemington Co., Minneapolis, MN  
Midwest Energy Finance, Minneapolis, MN  
MN Renewable Energy Society, Minneapolis, MN  
Nordic Windpower, Minneapolis, MN  
PRC Wind, Minneapolis, MN  
Windustry, Minneapolis, MN  
Front Row Energy, Minnetonka, MN  
Multiband Corporation, New Hope, MN  
Carstensen Contracting, Pipestone, MN  
First Farmers & Merchant Banks, Pipestone, MN  
Next Generation Power Systems, Pipestone, MN  
SMI & Hydraulics, Porter, MN  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association, Shakopee, MN  
Fresh Energy, St. Paul, MN  
Wind on the Wires, St. Paul, MN  
Windlogics, St. Paul, MN  
Northwest Wind Group, Thief River Falls, MN  
Northwest Regional Development, Warren, MN  
Juhl Wind, Inc., Woodstock, MN  
Hensley Farms, Albany, MO  
Burns and McDonnell, Kansas City, MO  
Milbank Manufacturing, Kansas City, MO  
Exergonix Inc., Lee's Summit, MO  
Lockton Companies, LLC, St. Louis, MO  
Health Care Without Harm, Belgrade, MT  
A-T Ranch, LLC, Belt, MT  
High Plains Architects, Billings, MT  
Kadmas, Lee and Jackson Engineering, Billings, MT  
New World WindPower LLC, Billings, MT  
Northern Plains Resource Council, Billings, MT  
Western Organization of Resource Councils, Billings, MT  
Greenstone Consulting, Bozeman, MT  
Mountainworks Software Inc., Bozeman, MT  
O'Connell Designs, Bozeman, MT  
MT Wind Applications Center, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT  
Wind Chasers LLC, Bozeman, MT  
David Ryan, P.E., Butte, MT  
National Center for Appropriate Technology, Butte, MT  
RE/MAX Mountain View, Columbia Falls, MT  
Cascade County Commission, Great Falls, MT

Montana Farmers Union, Great Falls, MT  
Alternative Energy Resources Organization, Helena, MT  
Capital Communications/Phanes Solar, Helena, MT  
Exergy Integrated Systems, Helena, MT  
Good Humus Compost Company, Helena, MT  
Montana Environmental Information Center, Helena, MT  
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter, Helena, MT  
Unishippers of Montana, Kalispell, MT  
Moodie Implement Co., Livingston, MT  
Birkby Consulting LLC, Missoula, MT  
Climate Solutions, Missoula, MT  
Kent Watson & Associates, Landscape Architecture, Missoula, MT  
Montana Conservation Voters, Missoula, MT  
MT Renewable Energy Association, Missoula, MT  
Woodhouse Products Inc., Power, MT  
Windmaker Energy, LLC, Whitefish, MT  
North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy, Bismarck, ND  
Dakota Turbines, Cooperstown, ND  
EAPC Wind Energy, Grand Forks, ND  
LM Wind Power Inc., Grand Forks, ND  
North Dakota Farmers Union, Jamestown, ND  
Crown Butte Wind Power, Mandan, ND  
Wind Marketing Alliance, North America, West Fargo, ND  
Nebraska Farmers Union, Lincoln, NE  
Curry and Kerlinger, LLC, Cape May, NJ  
Baker RD, Clovis, NM  
CG Power Solutions, Albany, NY  
OwnEnergy, Brooklyn, NY  
Wind Analytics, Brooklyn, NY  
Hanes Supply, Inc., Buffalo, NY  
CEC Wind Power, Cazenovia, NY  
Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, Monticello, NY  
Harbec Plastics, Ontario, NY  
SED - Sustainable Energy Development, Ontario, NY  
Apex Wind, Patterson, NY  
Martin Bros Construction, Syracuse, NY  
Tylin International, Webster, NY  
SUREnergy LLC, Sandusky, OH  
WECC LLC/WINDSOCK LLC, Enid, OK  
Octave Energy LLC, Bend, OR  
W.D. Rizer Consulting, Carlton, OR  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Corvallis, OR  
Natural Choice Directory, Eugene, OR  
CNS Productions, Medford, OR  
Aquarius BOX Playhouse, Portland, OR  
Citizens Utility Board, Portland, OR

Cleantech Law Partners, Portland, OR  
Equilibrium Equipment Finance, Portland, OR  
Hydrophix Systems, Portland, OR  
Mikinetics Consulting, LLC, Portland, OR  
QualityLogic, Inc., Portland, OR  
Renewable Northwest Project, Portland, OR  
Sustainable Solutions Unlimited, Inc., Portland, OR  
Vestas Wind Systems, Portland, OR  
Western Community Energy, LLC, Portland, OR  
EMS Environmental, Bethlehem, PA  
Henkels & McCoy, Blue Bell, PA  
Barnhart Renewables, Chadds Ford, PA  
Lomma Crane & Rigging, Imperial, PA  
Gamesa Wind, Philadelphia, PA  
Community Energy, Radnor, PA  
Dickinson & Sons, Inc., Reading, PA  
Narragansett Bay Commission, Providence, RI  
Waterson Terminal Services, Providence, RI  
Bulldog Erectors, Inc., Newberry, SC  
East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., Madison, SD  
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Knoxville, TN  
Intermountain Wind & Solar, Salt Lake City, UT  
Pace Global Energy Services, Fairfax, VA  
Northern Power Systems, Barre, VT  
NativeEnergy, Inc., Burlington, VT  
Northland Associates, Hinesburg, VT  
Alteris Renewables, Waitsfield, VT  
Calco Green, Waitsfield, VT  
AllEarth Renewables, Inc., Williston, VT  
Cascade Community Wind Company, Bellingham, WA  
Local Energy Alliance of Washington, Bellingham, WA  
North Sounds Energy & Remodel, Bellingham, WA  
GeoSphere LLC, Edmonds, WA  
Winter Sun Design, Edmonds, WA  
Naval Station Everett, Everett, WA  
Community Renewable Energy Association, Goldendale, WA  
Cdi Engineers, Lynnwood, WA  
Rappaport Energy Consulting, LLC, Ridgefield, WA  
Anderton Law Office - Washington Bike Law, Seattle, WA  
Andrew Friedman Legal Services, Seattle, WA  
Bernard Walter Consulting, Seattle, WA  
Emerald Cities Seattle, Seattle, WA  
Fifty Plus Once, Inc., Seattle, WA  
Home Performance Washington, Seattle, WA  
Infiniti Real Estate & Development, Seattle, WA  
Ingrid Rasch Consulting, Seattle, WA

NBIS, Seattle, WA

Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development (Northwest SEED), Seattle, WA

NW Energy Coalition, Seattle, WA

Sightline Institute, Seattle, WA

Tangerine Power, Seattle, WA

Ten Directions Design, Seattle, WA

WR Consulting Inc., Seattle, WA

eFormative Options, Vashon, WA

WES Engineering Inc., Madison, WI

Sanderfoot Wind, Neenah, WI

KB Energy, Arlington, WY