



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

February 16, 2012

Dear Congresswoman Biggert,

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce asks that you join your fellow Illinois Delegation members – Congressman Johnson and Congressman Dold – in co-sponsoring and supporting the extension of the renewable energy production tax credit (PTC). The wind PTC alone has incentivized developers to invest over \$1 billion in wind farms in Illinois. These projects are collectively responsible for more than 13,000 direct and indirect jobs during manufacturing and construction as well as nearly 600 permanent jobs throughout rural Illinois.

Wind turbines are among the most successful type of projects supported by the PTC. Thirteen major wind power companies have their global or U.S. headquarters in Chicago and another 100 companies in Illinois are dedicated to the wind energy supply chain. This capacity can increase if the 1,500 wind turbines in planning stages right now can come to fruition with the help of the tax credit. Each average-sized project creates 150 temporary construction jobs, 10-15 permanent maintenance jobs, and many other indirect jobs. These opportunities range from trained laborers who service turbines to accountants to insurance agents to engineers. Furthermore, local producers of construction supplies like sand, concrete, asphalt, and gravel see increased business as developers count on their suppliers to build.

In the past, when Congress has let the wind component of the PTC to expire, installations have decreased by 73 to 93 percent the next year. This sharp decrease means a parallel cut in job openings, property tax payments and lease payments in just this industry alone.

We don't think the PTC should be extended forever. We believe a four-year extension will allow the industry the certainty needed to bring it out of its infancy. Certainly, an on-again, off-again yearly battle filled with economic uncertainty cannot result in the ultimate maturity of this important new economic and energy resource. We strive for this kind of predictable environment for any kind of energy development and for regulations as well as tax incentives.

Therefore, we urge Congress to extend the PTC wind energy tax credit to help bring the economic benefits of renewable energy to Illinois.

Thank you,

Douglas L. Whitley  
President and CEO

**CHICAGO OFFICE**  
300 S. Wacker Drive  
Suite 1600  
Chicago, IL 60606  
  
MAIN 312.983.7100  
FAX 312.983.7101

[www.ilchamber.org](http://www.ilchamber.org)