



Colorado Communities  
for Climate Action

PO Box 270444, Louisville CO 80027

November 15, 2017

Honorable Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

I am writing on behalf of Colorado Communities for Climate Action to express our support for preservation of the current wind-energy production tax credit.

The tax legislation now being considered in the House of Representatives would undercut the current tax credit in a most unusual way—by retroactively making some wind energy projects ineligible for credit and by cutting in half the amount of the tax credit. At risk are wind energy projects in which the private sector is investing \$50 billion, including \$1.1 billion in Colorado. These projects are among the most important construction projects now underway to reduce heat-trapping emissions, and they should be allowed to proceed under the current law on which the investments in them were based.

In contrast to the House tax bill, the legislation now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee would leave intact the current wind-energy tax credit. In 2015, a bipartisan agreement resulted in legislation that extended that tax credit for a final five years, on a declining basis each year, after which the credit would be fully phased out. We strongly urge Congress to stand by that 2015 legislation, as the Senate Finance Committee bill would do, and not undercut it, as the House bill would do.

Colorado has a lot at stake. Wind energy projects under construction here include Xcel Energy's \$1 billion Rush Creek Wind Project, a 300-turbine project which would produce 600 megawatts of electricity, enough to serve 180,000 homes. The turbines for this project are being supplied by Vestas Wind Systems from its Colorado production facilities. As many as 7,000 Coloradans work directly in the wind energy industry, including at 15 wind-turbine production facilities which support the industry here and across the nation. Colorado currently gets 17 percent of its electricity from wind energy, the fourth highest rate in the nation, a percentage which will continue growing because of wind facilities now under construction. This wind energy is vital in avoiding the heat-trapping emissions that would instead result from fossil-fuel sources if the wind energy were not online.

Since the wind-energy credit was extended for a final five years, the private sector has made major investments based on that law. To retroactively undercut that law would be fundamentally unfair to the investors who relied on it. Upending the tax credit also would defeat the national interests it serves—reducing the emissions that are changing the climate, and bolstering the new clean-energy economy so important to our future.

For these reasons, Colorado Communities for Climate Action urges you to support the preservation of the current wind-energy production tax credit.

On behalf of the 15 local governments that are members of CC4CA, I thank you for consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anita Seitz".

Anita Seitz  
President