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Vestas urges extension of U.S. Production Tax Credit to preserve thousands of American jobs

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WASHINGTON, D.C. — Martha Wyrsh, president of Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc., today gave testimony to the U.S. Senate Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources & Infrastructure to urge an immediate extension of the Production Tax Credit (PTC), which is set to expire Dec. 31, 2012.

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“An extension of the PTC is necessary for the continued employment of the 80,000 people working in the U.S. wind industry,” said Wyrsh, who leads the North American arm of Vestas Wind Systems, the world’s leading provider of wind turbines. “Wind energy has grown dramatically in the past several years, creating a manufacturing renaissance in the U.S., and the PTC has been a significant driver in that growth. The jobs at stake, which include 20,000 people in the U.S. wind industry’s manufacturing sector and technical jobs throughout rural America, are skilled-labor positions with competitive wages and medical and retirement benefits.”

Wyrsh said if the PTC is not extended, hundreds of U.S. wind-industry suppliers employing thousands of people also would be affected.

Wyrsh addressed the bipartisan Senate subcommittee comprised of 13 senators, chaired by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-New Mexico).

The PTC, a credit of 2.1 cents per kilowatt-hour, is given to an owner of a wind-energy project once a wind turbine begins to produce electricity. Since 1999, the PTC has received short-term extensions seven times, and has lapsed three times.

With the PTC in place, the U.S. wind energy industry has achieved impressive economic numbers, according to the

American Wind Energy Association:

- More than 400 facilities across 43 states manufacture for the wind-power industry
- 60 percent of a wind turbine's value is now produced here in America, compared to 25 percent prior to 2005
- A 90 percent drop in the price of wind power since 1980, benefiting utilities and consumers
- More than \$60 billion invested since 2005

In the past, the wind industry has experienced a boom-and-bust development cycle, with significant drops in installations in years following PTC expiration. Each of these drops has had an impact on employment and capital investment.

“The development cycle for wind power begins more than a year in advance of operation,” Wyrsh said. “Many of our customers have already announced they will not place orders for any new turbines until the PTC is extended. The industry needs predictable, long-term tax and energy policies to ensure continued investment.”

Navigant Consulting, a respected non-partisan consulting firm, reported on Dec. 12, 2011, that 37,000 American jobs could be lost if the PTC is not extended.

Watch the full hearing [here](#) (start the video and go to 35:50 to see the testimony of Martha Wyrsh)
Read the full testimony of Martha Wyrsh [here](#)

Media Contact

Andrew Longeteig, Vestas, North America
+1 503-327-7479

About Vestas

Vestas is the world leader in supplying high-tech wind power systems and a preferred provider of wind turbines, services and solutions in North America. Since 1979, Vestas has an industry-leading installed base of more than 44,000 wind turbines in 67 countries. Vestas, which employs more than 3,000 people in the United States, sold its first wind turbine in North America in 1981 and since has supplied more than 12,000 in this market. Vestas' North American manufacturing operations are located in Colorado while its technology research centers are in Texas, Massachusetts and Colorado. Vestas' North American headquarters is located in Portland, Ore., while its global headquarters is in Aarhus, Denmark.

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