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American Wind Energy Association  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources  
Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4381, H.R. 4382, H.R. 4383, H.R. 4402, H.R. 1192 and H.R. 2176  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
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Chairman Lamborn, Ranking Member Holt and other members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today.

I am testifying on behalf of the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA). AWEA is the national trade association representing a broad range of entities with a common interest in encouraging the deployment and expansion of wind energy in the United States. AWEA members include wind turbine manufacturers, component suppliers, project developers, project owners and operators, financiers, researchers, renewable energy supporters, utilities, marketers, customers and their advocates.

Wind energy is a homegrown, affordable and commercially proven energy resource.

In just the last five years, the U.S. wind energy industry has:

- Grown employment to 75,000 people in the United States, including 30,000 in manufacturing at 470 facilities across 43 states;
- Grown total installed capacity to nearly 47 gigawatts of wind energy in 38 states, which is roughly equivalent to 41 average size coal plants, 129 natural gas plants or 11 nuclear plants;
- Added 35% of all new power capacity in the U.S., right behind natural gas;
- Attracted over \$15 billion annually in private investment in the U.S. and up to \$20 billion in a single year;
- Grown American content of wind turbines from less than 25% to over 60% today; and,
- Through technology advances, our industry can now generate 30% more electricity per turbine – all while driving down costs.

Five states already obtain more than 10% of their generation from wind energy with 13 more getting over 5% of their generation from wind. South Dakota is actually at 22%, and Iowa is at nearly 19%.

The attractiveness of wind energy is demonstrated by 30 different utilities signing 39 new contracts to buy wind power in 2011 alone.

With respect to the specific bills under consideration today, AWEA supports Section 102 of H.R. 4383 as introduced by Mr. Lamborn. This provision would re-direct 50% of the revenues paid by wind and solar projects back into Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices to improve permitting going forward.

AWEA also supports H.R. 2176 as introduced by Mr. Heinrich. This gets at the same revenue re-direction concept in a slightly different way by allowing 100% of the revenues paid by wind and solar projects to go back into BLM for permit processing improvements up to a \$5 million cap. This particular cap level may need to be re-visited and raised in light of the growing level of development and revenues being paid by wind and solar projects. Importantly, H.R. 2176 allows the Secretary to spend these funds without further appropriation and allows the use of a portion of the funds to cover expenses by other agencies involved in evaluating projects, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies.

Other activities on BLM lands, including oil and gas development (Section 365 of EAct05), geothermal development (Section 234 of EAct05), commercial filming (Public Law 106-206) and communications towers (DOI appropriations bills beginning in 2006) already benefit from this type of revenue recycling.

With respect to H.R. 4381 as introduced by Mr. Tipton, goals can be helpful as evidenced by the success of the 10,000 megawatt renewable energy goal Congress established for the Department of Interior in EAct05. However, AWEA is concerned by language on page 5 subsection (c) indicating that the Department will choose what lands to make available for energy production. That type of DOI favored-zone approach is not how wind energy projects are developed on BLM lands today, and it puts a federal agency, rather than the private sector, in charge of evaluating the economic viability of given locations.

While AWEA appreciates the Committee's attention to renewable energy today, I would caution that the impact of these bills will be minimal, at best, without an extension of the federal production tax credit for wind energy.

Keeping taxes low on wind energy, which in turn lowers prices to consumers, has enabled the American manufacturing, jobs, investment and economic development success story I described earlier.

We urge Congress to keep taxes low on wind energy by extending the PTC now, and allow our industry to finish the job we've started to help rebuild our nation's manufacturing base and expand domestic energy production. Besides AWEA, a PTC extension is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Edison Electric Institute, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Association of Manufacturers, and several environmental organizations, among others.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.