

Resource Guide

May 20th National Day of Action to Support American Jobs and the U.S. Economy By Extending the Expiring Clean Energy Tax Incentives



On May 20th over 100 groups and companies are activating their members and employees to contact Congress on this issue! Thank you for being a part of this coordinated effort!

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cell: 720-891-5385

Clean Energy Tax Incentives Coalition

Calls to Senators

- 1) Please call the Capital Hill Switchboard (202-224-3121) and ask for your two Senators' numbers.
- 2) When you call your Senators state your name and company/organization affiliation and ask to be transferred to the Chief of Staff. If she/he isn't available ask to leave a message for her/him.

Sample Call Message:

"My name is _____ and I am calling from (state company/organization affiliation, position and location) on behalf of a broad national coalition of over 100 companies, clean energy investors and organizations. I am calling to stress to Senator XX the urgency of immediately renewing the expiring Clean Energy Tax Incentives.

Every day that passes without an extension places more American jobs at risk. Already clean energy projects in the U.S. are being put on hold while overseas growth in jobs and the manufacturing of equipment is surging overseas. This is slowing our transition towards energy independence and our ability to remain competitive in the new clean economy that is going to be a huge part of the future. [If possible, add local, personal antidote about negative economic impact of the tax incentives expiring].

These tax incentives are building up our domestic renewable energy and energy efficiency industries, contributing to much needed economic stimulus and development in our state, and strengthening our nation's energy security.

We are running out of time. Please ask Senator XXX to do everything possible to pass bi-partisan legislation to extend the Clean Energy Tax Incentives before Memorial Day. These incentives are so crucial to our economy.

Thank you for listening to my concerns."

*Remember to stress the two main talking points: **Urgency of immediate and the positive economic impact** of these tax incentives.*

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E-mail Action Alert Template

Subject Line to Advocates: Time to Invest Our Clean Energy Future

Email Text:

Dear Friends/Supporters/Advocates:

Please urge your Senators to **immediately reauthorize a package of expiring clean energy tax incentives.**

Today over *100 organizations and companies* are asking their members and employees to write to their Senators on this issue. Thank you for being part of this coordinated effort! Congress has spent the last six months debating how to pay for these expiring tax incentives which make it cheaper for individuals and companies to install renewable energy systems and build energy-efficient buildings.

Tell your Senators that time has run out. Every day that passes without an extension places more green jobs at risk, and the pending expiration of the tax incentives is slowing down our transition to a clean energy economy.

Thank you for adding your voice to this Day of Action to extend the Clean Energy Tax Incentives.

(LOGO HERE)

Letter to Senate:

Dear Senator ____:

For the past six months Congress has been debating how to pay for extensions of a package of expiring clean energy tax incentives. These critical extensions are long overdue. We need you to get us across the finish line! Every day that passes without an extension places more green jobs at risk; every day the delay slows down our transition to a clean energy economy. Senator, renewable energy projects are already being put on hold, hiring has slowed down, and clean energy investment dollars are being directed outside our borders. Please do something to end this stalemate.

Senator, it is up to you to end this prolonged debate. Immediate action is needed. Please support our emerging clean energy economy by moving a package of clean energy tax credit extenders to the President's desk.

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Policy Background:

The Recent Political History of the Tax Incentives: In 2005, as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress put in place a package of new tax incentives and tax credit extensions to help create jobs, bring down the cost of installing renewable energy systems, manufacturing and purchasing energy efficient products and technologies. Many of these tax incentives that offer citizens and companies partnership dollars to invest in our clean energy future are set to expire in December, 2008. If they expire, over 116,000 jobs in the wind and solar industries alone are placed at risk in 2009, and more than \$19 billion in clean energy investments may be diverted to other nations with more stable investing climates.

Different legislative efforts have been put forth in the House and the Senate for the past year with no success. Efforts are currently underway again and it's time to reach out to our Members of Congress to let them know we are fundamentally running out of time.

For more information on the tax incentives visit:

- <http://www.seia.org/itc.php>
- http://www.ucsusa.org/clean_energy/clean_energy_policies/production-tax-credit-for-renewable-energy.html
- <http://www.awea.org/legislative/#PTC>

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Key Efficiency & Renewable Energy Incentives That Must be Extended Immediately

Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit – a tax credit of 2 cents per kilowatt-hour for production of electricity from renewable sources such as the wind, geothermal and biomass. The credit expires at the end of 2008.

Investment Tax Incentives for Solar and Fuel Cell Technologies – a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of residential solar and fuel cell systems up to certain amounts depending on the technology and a tax credit for 30 percent of the cost of commercial solar and fuel cell systems. These incentives expire at the end of 2008, and need to be extended for eight years on the commercial side, and at least one year on the residential side with the \$2000 cap removed. A similar credit should be provided for small wind systems (100 kW or less) used to power individual homes and businesses.

Energy Efficient Commercial Buildings Tax Deduction – a tax deduction of \$1.80 per square foot for buildings that reduce energy consumption by 50 percent compared to a national model energy building code. The deduction expires at the end of 2008. Certain changes need to be made to the deduction such as increasing the amount to \$2.25.

Manufacturer Tax Incentives for Efficient Appliances – tax incentives of various amounts to manufacturers for the production of high efficiency appliances. This credit expired at the end of 2007.

Clean Renewable Energy Bonds – bonds that provide financing for renewable energy projects developed by public power providers and electric cooperatives. \$2 billion in bonds should be authorized, along with key technical modifications to the program, such as reforming the allocation methodology and definition for public power utilities.

Energy Efficient New Home Tax Credit – an income tax credit of \$2,000 for new homes that are at least 50 percent more efficient than required by the residential model energy code and the same amount of credit for new manufactured homes that are at least 30 percent more efficient than required by the model code. The credit expires at the end of 2008. The credit needs to be modified so that rental homes can qualify for the incentive.

Energy Efficiency Upgrades to Existing Homes – a tax credit of up to \$500 per taxpayer for energy efficiency retrofits to existing buildings and the purchase of efficient heating and cooling equipment. The tax credit expired at the end of 2007. A few changes need to be made to the tax credit such as adding certain equipment that are eligible to obtain the incentive.

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Clean Energy Tax Incentives Message Points

- 1) **Create local jobs, and build up our domestic clean energy industries:** This is what we call *real* economic stimulus. Clean energy development is starting to become an economic engine in communities across the country. These tax incentives, if extended, will create hundreds of thousands of good jobs throughout the U.S., including manufacturing, engineering, roofing, electrical and construction jobs. A recent Navigant Consulting report shows that if these incentives are not extended over 116,000 jobs in the wind and solar industries are placed at risk, and more than \$19 billion in clean energy investments may be diverted elsewhere outside the country?.
- 2) **Enhance national energy security and energy independence:** By diversifying our energy sources, protecting against rising electricity fuel prices, helping to stabilize the electricity grid, and reducing our reliance on imported energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency deliver substantial return on the money invested into these tax incentives.
- 3) **Help reduce our nation's contribution to global warming:** Every time one of these tax incentives is claimed that means that clean renewable energy, and energy efficiency products are being installed reducing the need for energy production from fossil-fuels.
- 4) **Support states efforts to go 'green':** 26 states have policies in place that mandate the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency. These tax incentives make it substantially cheaper for those states to meet their clean energy goals.
- 5) **Empower individuals:** These tax incentives empower individual citizens to take action to improve our energy independence and reduce the production of global warming gases. 85% of Americans agree that "The federal government should continue existing incentives to encourage greater use of renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar power." (Poll conducted by Zogby International and commissioned by the American Wind Energy Association surveying Americans on existing federal incentives for renewable energy).

Clean Energy Tax Incentives Coalition

Most Recent Coalition Letter

Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 5, 2008

Please Support Urgent Action to Extend Clean Energy Tax Incentives

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Madam Speaker and Minority Leader Boehner:

As a coalition of businesses, construction companies, environmental organizations, investors, labor, nongovernmental organizations, public health organizations, religious organizations, states, trade associations and utilities we write to urge you to do everything you can to ensure prompt enactment, with significant bipartisan support, of extensions of federal tax incentives that promote renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. **These vitally important tax incentives have expired or will expire at the end of this year, and must be extended immediately to sustain one of the most rapidly expanding areas of the American economy.**

We urge you to work together to enact extensions of the clean energy tax incentives before Memorial Day. The delay in extending clean energy tax incentives is already discouraging investment decisions today for projects that will be completed in 2009 or later. According to a recent study by Navigant Consulting, **failure to promptly extend renewable energy tax incentives places at risk 116,000 jobs in the wind and solar industries and more than \$19 billion in clean energy investment.**

The incentives that need to be extended are the renewable energy production tax credit, clean renewable energy bonds, efficient commercial buildings tax deduction, investment tax credit for solar and fuel cell systems, tax credit for energy efficiency upgrades to existing homes, tax incentives for the production of efficient home appliances, tax credit for construction of efficient new homes, and tax incentives for consumer purchases of energy efficient products.

The clean energy tax incentives play a vital role in creating new high-wage American jobs, spurring economic growth, promoting consumer purchases of energy efficient products, lowering energy bills for consumers and businesses, and of course reducing global warming pollution. The incentives also help the U.S. catch up with other countries on the development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

Every day that passes without an extension takes a toll on jobs and investment in clean energy projects. The clean energy technology industries have been plagued by a boom and bust cycle caused by erratic and short-term extensions of the clean energy tax incentives. If

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these incentives are not extended by Memorial Day, we risk a major contraction in the clean energy industries that have been a bright spot in the otherwise troubled economy and are essential to solving global warming. We urge you to do everything you can to avoid such an unfortunate outcome by working together to enact extensions of the incentives by Memorial Day.

Sincerely,

ACORE	Energy Unlimited, Inc.
Alliance to Save Energy	Environment America
Alliant Energy	Environmental Defense Fund
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy	Environmental and Energy Study Institute
American Institute of Architects	enXco
American Wind Energy Association	Eurus Energy America Corporation
Ameren Corporation	Exelon Corporation
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	Federal Performance Contracting Association
AWS Truwind, LLC	Friends Committee on National Legislation
AES Wind Generation	Gamesa Technology Corp., Inc.
Atlantic City Electric	GE Energy
Audubon	Global Energy Concepts
Ballard Power Systems	Great River Energy
Bloom Energy	Green Mountain Power Corporation
BOSCH	Greenpeace
BP Alternative Energy	Hadassah the Women's Zionist Organization of America
Break Through Technologies	Hawaiian Electric Company
Business Council for Sustainable Energy	Honeywell
California Energy Commission	Horizon Wind Energy
Center for Biological Diversity	Hydrogenics
Central Vermont Public Service Corporation	Iberdrola Renewables
CH Energy Group, Inc.	Insulating Concrete Form Association
Clean Water Action	Interstate Power and Light
Clipper Windpower Development Company Inc.	Interwest Energy Alliance
Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life	Invenergy LLC
Competitive Power Ventures, Inc.	John Deere Renewables, LLC
Constellation Energy	JP Morgan
Delmarva Power	KyotoUSA
D.H. Blattner & Sons, Inc	League of Conservation Voters
Direct Methanol Fuel Cell Corporation	League of Women Voters of the United States
The Dow Chemical Company	LM Glasfiber, Inc.
DTE Energy	Methanol Institute
Duke Energy	MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company
Earthjustice	Millennium Cell Inc.
Edison Electric Institute	Mortenson Construction
Edison Mission Energy	North American Insulation Manufacturers Association
EMJ Corporation	National Association of Home Builders
The Empire District Electric Company	National Association of State Energy Officials
Energy East Corporation	

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National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Grid
National Hydropower Association
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
National Tribal Environmental Council
National Venture Capital Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
Noble Environmental Power
Northeast Public Power Association
NorthWestern Energy
Oil Change International
Pacific Winds Inc.
PG&E Corporation
Pepco Holdings, Inc.
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Plug Power Inc.
Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association
Portland General Electric
PPL Corporation
PPM Energy, Inc.
PSEG
PPG Industries
Public Citizen
Puget Sound Energy
The Real Estate Roundtable
Redefining Progress
ReliOn
Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc.
Renewable Northwest Project
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sempra Energy
SGL Carbon Group
Siemens Corporation
Sierra Club
Sierra Pacific Resources
Signal Wind Energy, LLC
Solar Energy Industries Association (on behalf of more than 700 member companies)
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Southern California Edison
Southwest Windpower
Stewart Title Guaranty
Sud-Chemie
TechNet
TPI Composites, Inc.
Trane
Trinity Industries, Inc.
Trinity Logistics Group, Inc.
TrinityRail
Trinity Rail Group, LLC
Trinity Structural Towers, Inc.
Union of Concerned Scientists
Union for Reform Judaism
UniSource Energy Corporation
United Steelworkers
UPC Wind Management, LLC
U.S. Fuel Cell Council
Vestas Americas
Vote Solar
Westar Energy, Inc.
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Whirlpool
Wind Capital Group, LLC
Wisconsin Power and Light
Wood3 Resources
Xcel Energy I