



July 11, 2012

Re: Extension of the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Max Baucus
Finance Committee Chair
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

Dear Senator Reid and Senator Baucus:

We are writing to express our support for the extension of the wind energy Production Tax Credit (PTC). **Ninety-nine (99) ski resorts across twenty-four (24) states support the extension to bolster clean energy development in this country. We urge you to take up debate on the extension and pass it as soon as possible.** The extension of the wind energy PTC will help support renewable energy development, ensure that clean technology can compete in the marketplace, and ultimately help reduce carbon emissions in the United States. It will also help the ski industry continue our investments in green energy in the future.

The wind energy PTC extension has broad, bi-partisan support, yet Congress seems to be waiting to act on it until after the November elections. The time to pass the extension is now. Passing the extension now will allow investors to make commitments and will preserve jobs in the wind energy sector.

Ski resorts are great locations for wind turbines because in many cases, infrastructure such as roads and power lines already exist on the mountain. In the East, four ski areas, Burke Mountain (VT), Bolton Valley (VT), Jiminy Peak (MA) and Berkshire East (MA) have all installed wind turbines to produce clean energy for use in the ski areas'

operations. None of these projects would have happened if it weren't for wind energy tax credits. Many ski areas are interested in installing wind turbines on site in the future. Ski areas can only justify the investment in this green energy development if the return on investment makes sense. A wind energy tax credit makes or breaks these developments and without it, they simply would not be possible.

Additionally, a significant number of ski areas purchase wind energy credits to offset their carbon emissions and reduce their carbon footprint. A number of resorts make significant investments in wind energy and offset 100% of their carbon emissions. Without the wind energy PTC, these opportunities to purchase green energy at a reasonable cost will be lost. Finally, on a related front, ski lift manufacturer and NSAA supplier member, Leitner Poma, has an affiliated company, LeitWind, which manufactures wind turbines in Grand Junction, Colorado. Whether or not the wind segment of their business grows depends on whether or not the federal wind production tax credit is allowed to expire. On behalf of all of these ski industry interests, we urge quick and decisive action on extending the wind energy PTC.

In closing, we wanted to inform you that last season, the National Ski Areas Association initiated the "Climate Challenge," a voluntary program dedicated to helping participating ski areas reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reap other benefits in their operations, such as reducing costs of energy use. Resorts who take the Challenge are required to complete a climate inventory on their resort operations, set a target for greenhouse gas reduction, and implement a new program or project annually to meet the reduction goal. Examples of some of the actions taken so far include lighting retrofits, development of on-site renewable energy including solar and wind and investment in high efficiency snowmaking equipment. Eight ski areas took up the challenge in its inaugural year: Alta Ski Area (UT), Arapahoe Basin (CO), Canyons Resort (UT), Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY), Jiminy Peak (MA), Mount Hood Meadows (OR), Park City Mountain Resort (UT), and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort (CO). For the upcoming season, ten (10) additional resorts will be joining the Climate Challenge including Beaver Valley Ski Club (ON), Boreal Mountain (CA), Copper Mountain (CO), Gorgoza Park (UT) Killington Resort (VT), Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort (NV), Mt. Bachelor (OR), Pico Mountain Resort (VT), Soda Springs (CA) and Sugarbush (VT). We anticipate many more resorts joining the Challenge in future years and are pleased to keep you apprised of their progress.

Please act quickly to debate and pass the extension of the wind energy Production Tax Credit. If there is any additional information we can provide from the ski industry, our contact person is Geraldine Link ((720) 963-4205 or glink@nsaa.org) at the National Ski Areas Association.

Best Regards,

ALASKA
Alyeska Resort

CALIFORNIA

Alpine Meadows
Bear Valley
Boreal Mountain Resort
Homewood Mountain Resort
Kirkwood Mountain Resort
Mammoth
Mountain High
Mt. Shasta Ski Park
Northstar California
Sierra-at-Tahoe
Soda Springs Ski Area
Squaw Valley
Sugar Bowl

COLORADO

Arapahoe Basin
Aspen Highlands
Aspen Mountain
Beaver Creek
Breckenridge
Buttermilk
Copper
Crested Butte Mountain Resort
Durango Mountain Resort
Echo Mountain
Keystone
Monarch
Powderhorn
Silverton
Snowmass
Sol Vista at Granby Ranch
Steamboat Ski & Resort
Telluride Ski & Golf Resort
Vail Mountain
Winter Park

IDAHO

Lookout Pass
Schweitzer Mountain Resort
Tamarack Resort

ILLINOIS

Chestnut Mountain Resort

INDIANA

Perfect North Slopes

MAINE

Camden Snow Bowl
Mt. Abram
Shawnee Peak Ski Area

MASSACHUSETTS

Catamount Ski Area
Jiminy Peak
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

MICHIGAN

Crystal Mountain

MINNESOTA

Lutsen Mountains
Welch Village

MONTANA

Bridger Bowl

NEVADA

Heavenly Mountain Resort
Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cranmore Mountain Resort
Gunstock Mountain Resort
Loon Mountain
Mount Sunapee
Ragged Mountain Resort
Waterville Valley

NEW MEXICO

Pajarito Mountain Ski Area
Taos Ski Valley

NEW YORK

Bristol Mountain
Greek Peak Mountain Resort
Holiday Valley Resort
Hunter Mountain
Mt. Peter Ski Area
Windham Mountain

OREGON

Anthony Lakes
Cooper Spur Mountain Resort
Mt. Ashland Ski Area
Mt. Bachelor
Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort
Timberline Lodge & Ski Area

PENNSYLVANIA

Elk Mountain
Whitetail Resort

UTAH

Alta Ski Area
Canyons Resort
Deer Crest Private Trails
Deer Valley
Park City Mountain Resort

VERMONT

Bromley
Burke Mountain
Killington
Okemo Mountain Resort
Pico Mountain
Smugglers' Notch
Stowe
Stratton
Sugarbush

VIRGINIA

The Homestead Ski Area
Massanutten Ski Resort
Wintergreen Resort

WEST VIRGINIA

Snowshoe

WASHINGTON

49 Degrees North Mountain Resort
Mission Ridge
Stevens Pass
Summit-at-Snoqualmie

WISCONSIN

Cascade Mountain
Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park

WYOMING

Grand Targhee Resort
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort