Leader McConnell and Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of millions of taxpayers and consumers across the country, we are writing to express our opposition to extending the production tax credit (PTC) and the investment tax credit (ITC) which are scheduled to expire at the end of this year.

We urge the Senate to reject any legislative proposals that would extend these handouts to mature energy technologies which place an unacceptable burden on taxpayers.

The PTC and ITC were initially intended to support “infant” industries that were too expensive to succeed in their early stages without government support. However, after decades and billions of dollars in subsidies the solar and wind industry are more than capable of supporting themselves without federal “incentives.”

The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation — the “Moving Forward Act” — that would provide the wind and solar industries an additional five years to start construction on new facilities in order to qualify for ten years of tax credits once the new facilities start operation. For reference, the PTC for wind has already been extended 12 times since 1999, despite Congress agreeing in 2015 to phase it out. The extension in the House bill means that taxpayers could be on the hook to subsidize new wind facilities through 2037. If the deadlines are extended, the cost of tax credits for new wind and solar facilities has been estimated to be at least $13 billion. This cost to taxpayers would be in addition to the $131 billion already estimated for wind and solar subsidies during 2010-2029.

According to the American Wind Energy Association, “U.S. wind power has more than tripled over the past decade and today is the largest source of renewable energy in the country ... growth in the wind industry is expected to remain strong when the PTC is fully phased out. Because the PTC has been successful ... wind will continue to expand capacity ...” Similarly, the Solar Energy Industries Association states that, “In 2019, solar was the number one source of new electric generating capacity installed in the United States, representing 40% of all new capacity installed. Over the last 10 years, solar deployment has grown an average of 48% every year.”
It's also worth noting that, in addition to tax subsidies, some 37 states have mandatory targets or voluntary goals for using renewable energy sources to generate electricity. These state programs continue to bolster wind and solar power at the expense of taxpayers and consumers. There's no need for another layer of poorly targeted programs for “renewables.”

These industries do not need more taxpayer dollars and federal favoritism to keep them afloat. We, therefore, urge you to oppose the extension of the production and investment tax credits.

Sincerely,

David Williams  Matthew Kandrach  
President  President  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance  Consumer Action for a Strong Economy  

Brent Wm. Gardner  Tom Schatz  
Chief Government Affairs Officer  President  
Americans for Prosperity  Council for Citizens Against Government Waste  

Bethany Marcum  Robert Roper  
Executive Director  President  
Alaska Policy Forum  Ethan Allen Institute  

Phil Kerpen  Annette Meeks  
President  Founder and CEO  
American Commitment  Freedom Foundation of Minnesota  

Steve Pociask  Jessica Anderson  
President / CEO  Executive Director  
American Consumer Institute  Heritage Action  

Grover Norquist  Brandon Arnold  
President  Executive Vice President  
Americans for Tax Reform  National Taxpayers Union  

Garrett Ballengee  Robert Fellner  
Executive Director  Vice President & Policy Director  
Cardinal Institute for WV Policy  Nevada Policy Research Institute
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<td>President</td>
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<td>Paul Gessing</td>
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