



**NATIONAL  
FARMERS  
UNION**

January 24, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

I encourage your support of including important renewable energy tax incentives in the economic stimulus package currently being considered by Congress. Specifically, the farm, ranch and rural members of National Farmers Union (NFU), support an extension of the production tax credit in order to foster continued development of renewable energy in rural communities across the nation.

Rural America has the greatest potential for generating significant amounts of clean, renewable energy from wind and biomass. Not only does renewable energy provide the opportunity for energy independence, but it provides a significant source for rural economic development. Developing a robust renewable electricity industry would generate billions of dollars in investments across rural America and billions more in economic opportunities for farmers, ranchers and rural landowners.

The Production Tax Credit (PTC), which provides a two cent/kilowatt-hour credit for electricity produced from renewable sources such as wind, is set to expire on December 31, 2008. In the absence of a national Renewable Portfolio Standard, the PTC provides the sole federal incentive to continue development of wind projects in rural America. This credit, first enacted into law in 1992, has unfortunately lapsed on three occasions in the past -- 1999, 2001, and 2003. With each lapse, investment dollars stopped flowing into projects, jobs were lost, and the growth of the industry declined. Industry experts indicate a significant decrease in new project development before this summer if the credit is not extended soon.

While NFU supports making the PTC permanent, I understand you are working to craft a package of incentives that meets the "timely, targeted and temporary" definition. I believe inclusion of a short-term extension of the PTC meets this test and would ensure continued development of the renewable energy industry, help decrease energy costs for consumers, and ensure continued job growth in the renewable energy sector and in rural communities.

I appreciate your consideration, and look forward to working with you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Buis, President  
National Farmers Union

cc: U.S. Senate Finance Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee