



Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future

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Dear Senator/Representative:

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) has long been a leading advocate for Pennsylvania's clean energy future. As you well know, the Commonwealth has extraordinary potential for being a national and international leader in many aspects of clean, alternative energy development and production. Together we can build a secure, affordable energy future that doesn't harm our bountiful natural resources or our citizens' health in the process—creating new, high-quality jobs in many sectors, and spurring economic growth in every corner of the state. As we prepare for the Special Legislative Session on Energy Independence, we wanted to share some important information about wind energy.

**Wind energy** is vital to the Pennsylvania of tomorrow, and is a growing source of electricity, new job growth, and rural economic development today:

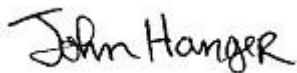
- The U.S. National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) reports that the best wind resources east of the Mississippi River lie within Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. NREL also views the wind energy development in this region to be a critical component to the nation's energy portfolio—one that keeps electricity affordable for consumers and that doesn't continue to expose the U.S. to serious energy security risks.
- Enough wind power can be generated in Pennsylvania to meet the full annual electric needs of one million homes.
- More than 1,000 Pennsylvanians are already employed in Pennsylvania's wind industry. Gamesa, a wind turbine manufacturer, shortly will be hiring another 300 Pennsylvanians. That is just the beginning of the many good paying jobs wind power is bringing now to Pennsylvania.
- Electricity from Pennsylvania's wind farms increases electricity supply and helps keep electric market prices affordable and avoids pollution that would be caused by burning fossil fuels to make the electricity wind now already does.
- Electricity from Pennsylvania's wind farms creates no air pollution. Wind energy emits no mercury that is poisoning birds, fish and working its way into the human food chain, no soot that kills 2,000 Pennsylvanians each year and belches from coal plants, no arsenic, no smog causing pollution that sickens and kills humans, and no global warming pollution that is causing dangerous climate change that will destroy Pennsylvania's existing forests.
- Every kilowatt-hour of zero pollution electricity produced at a wind farm is a kilowatt-hour that will not be produced by traditional dirty generation sources that cause massive environmental damage. Supply and demand for electricity must constantly be kept in balance and so every kilowatt-hour produced by a wind farm is instantly consumed and avoids the need for that kilowatt-hour coming from another dirty plant.

- **Traditional sources of energy like coal-burning power plants pollute every hour of the year that they run. Some opponents of wind wish to focus just on a few peak hours of the year and ignore the enormous environmental damage done during 99% of the hours of the year when electricity demand is not at peak levels.**
- Wind energy helps Pennsylvania reduce our contributions to the global warming problem; Pennsylvania ranks third worst in the nation for production of heat-trapping gases that cause global warming, as much as 105 countries combined. That equates to *one percent* of the world's total global warming pollution.
- Wind energy also requires no mining, blowing up mountain tops, and burying hundreds of miles of streams, as coal production does.
- Wind power uses no water in production, while coal and nuclear plants consume huge amounts of water and cause major damage to rivers and aquatic life.
- Wind power creates no dangerous coal ash or radioactive waste that must be stored, as do coal and nuclear plants.
- Wind energy has no fuel costs. Investing in wind energy now means that costs will never escalate in the years ahead, no matter what. The same cannot be said for traditional sources of energy in Pennsylvania.
- Pennsylvania's forest, wildlife, and water resources are *enhanced* and protected by wind energy production, since it does not result in pollution. Each and every wind project proposed in Pennsylvania is reviewed thoroughly by four state regulatory agencies, applying guidelines that were designed specifically for the Commonwealth, using the best science from all sources. Many wind energy companies have voluntarily agreed to the nation's most rigorous set of project review guidelines and requirements developed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Pennsylvania is a model for the U.S. in this regard.
- Wind farms enhance tourism and create much-needed annual revenue for rural landowners, and do not decrease property average property values, according to research conducted by Lawrence Berkley Laboratories using Pennsylvania and New York data.

Unfortunately, there has been a great deal of misinformation and fear-mongering about wind energy. There is room for honest debate about wind farms, but on balance, the benefits to the Commonwealth and to communities where wind projects are located overwhelmingly outweigh the impacts.

As we look ahead to the upcoming legislative session, PennFuture looks forward to working together with you to continue to expand and secure Pennsylvania's clean energy future.

Sincerely,



John Hanger

President & CEO

PennFuture