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VT Renewable Energy Industry Calls For Action

Pointing to a recent announcement by a major Spanish wind turbine manufacturer that it intends to establish an advanced-technology plant in Pennsylvania, Renewable Energy Vermont (REV) today called on Vermont's political leaders to encourage appropriately sited utility-scale wind projects in the state.

"We are being left behind in the competition to attract new solar and wind manufacturing industry jobs said REV Chair Lawrence Mott of Northern Power Systems, "and the Pennsylvania announcement shows it graphically. Vermont should be talking with the clean energy industry and trying to make it a foundation for a new, sustainable Vermont economy."

Pennsylvania Gov. Edward Rendell appeared at a press conference last Thursday with the CEO of the Spanish company, the world's second largest wind turbine maker, to hail its decision to make roto blades and site its U.S. headquarters in the Keystone State.

"My company makes world-class wind measuring equipment, we sell virtually all of our product outside Vermont and around the world," commented David Blittersdorf, REV member and President of NRG Systems, based in Hinesburg. "Vermont is a wonderful place to live, with a skilled work force and competitive infrastructure. "As a native Vermonter, I'm glad that we have been able to grow here. Vermont has a lot to offer other companies in our industry but it's not even in the game."

"The political leadership in Pennsylvania, and New York have embraced wind energy while Vermont has turned a cold shoulder," said Andrew Perchlik, executive director of REV. "Now we are seeing the fruits of those decisions. While wind has been stalled here since 1998, other states are moving forward, and they will get the jobs, tax benefits, and economic growth instead of us."

REV called on Gov. James Douglas and his challenger, Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle, to pledge to support appropriately sited utility-scale wind projects in Vermont and commit to enacting renewable energy incentive programs and policies as other states have (see attached table of incentives offered by other states).

"Because of continued growth in world energy demand, volatility in energy prices, and growing concern about global climate change, the renewable energy industry is likely to be one of the largest sources of new American manufacturing jobs in the 21st century," said Mott. "We must not mortgage Vermont's economic future by failing to seize this opportunity to make use of one of its most abundant natural resources."

State Renewable Energy Incentive Programs and Policies Table:

Renewable Energy Incentive Or Policy

Corporate Tax Incentives (16 states)

CA, HI, MD, MA, MN, MT, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, OR, TX, UT, WV

Grants and/or Rebates (32 states)

AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MT, NM, NV, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, VA, TX, WA, WI, WY

Industrial Recruitment Incentives (7 states)

HI, MI, NC, OH, OK, TX, VA

Personal Income Tax Incentives (14 states)

AL, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MD, MA, MT, NY, NC, ND, OR, RI, UT

RPS (16 states)

AZ, CA, CT, HI, IA, ME, MD, MA, MN, NV, NJ, NM, NY, RI, TX, WI

Vermont has none of these policies in place.