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A proposal to renew a federal tax credit aimed at encouraging "green power" development is hung up in Congress, possibly jeopardizing growth of the business and the players in the U.S. wind energy industry. The Production Tax Credit, which has helped the wind energy industry employ about 75,000 Americans, is set to expire at the end of 2012. The American Wind Energy Association which represents 2,500 member companies has been active in encouraging passage of a renewed tax credit. Layoffs in the industry are increasing in the absence of a policy signal from Congress.

Extension of the credit has been the basis for rapid growth of U.S. jobs and manufacturing since 2005. Despite that, layoffs have occurred at companies that had been investing in the alternative energy source, including Gamesa, NRG Systems, Vestas, Iberdrola and Windlogics. "(They) represent what is happening and will continue to happen across the country in the U.S. wind industry if these businesses are not provided the policy certainty they need to continue to invest in America and its workers.

Also pushing Congress to approve the measure is the Natural Resources Defense Council, which says that beyond being a clean energy producer, the industry is fast becoming a major contributor to the economy in many parts of the country by generating new taxes and lease payments to land owners. Wind farms generate about 50,000 megawatts of clean, renewable energy -- the equivalent of the energy produced by 12 Hoover Dams, according to the NRDC.

"Every time a wind farm gets built, American jobs are created," Cai Steger, co-author of a report entitled "At Wind Speed: How the U.S. Wind Industry is Rapidly Growing Our Local Economies." "These reports show what the PTC has done for the wind industry -- and why it's essential that it is extended." Without the extension before the end of the year, 37,000 job losses are expected in 2013, said RDC spokesman Bob Keefe. "We've tried to put a face on what the layoffs would look like," he said. In August, the Senate Finance Committee passed a bill (S.3521) that included hundreds of tax credits, and among them was the Federal Production Tax Credit for Wind Energy, said Kamara Jones, press secretary for U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn. The current provision allows taxpayers to claim a 2.2 cent per kilowatt hour tax credit for wind electricity produced for a 10-year period from a wind facility placed in service by the end of 2012. The bill would extend the credit through 2013.

Based on preliminary estimates, the proposal is estimated to have a net cost of \$12.1 billion over 10 years, according to Blumenthal's office. There is a strong possibility that the tax credit will be extended," Blumenthal said. "The real obstacle is partisan gridlock"

Electricity Pricing – Sep 25, 2012

	On-Peak	Off-Peak
2012	\$.03297	\$.02230
2013	\$.03810	\$.02471
2014	\$.03966	\$.02615

LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Sep, 2011	\$.03058
Oct, 2011	\$.02968
Nov, 2011	\$.02816
Dec, 2011	\$.02971
Jan, 2012	\$.03043
Feb, 2012	\$.02963
Mar, 2012	\$.02894
April, 2012	\$.02659
May, 2012	\$.02816
June, 2012	\$.03089
July, 2012	\$.04303
Aug, 2012	\$.03112
Sep 1 thru Sep 24	\$.03076

Extended Temperature Forecast:

Chicago Area

	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
High	78	67	64	67	69
Low	58	52	52	50	50

