

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell,

As Congress and the Trump Administration discuss further efforts to address the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, our Democrat colleagues continue to puppet renewable energy tax credit extensions. We once again urge you to reject these demands as they are unrelated to the current public health crisis. Renewable credits were supposed to be temporary in order to level the playing field with other power generators. However, the reverse has occurred. Renewable tax advantages have become a detriment to the others. Wind and solar have enjoyed numerous extensions under generous safe harbor rules and it is time for them to finally expire.

However, if these provisions are being seriously considered, the following energy priorities must be on the table.


The electricity market manipulation against dispatchable, fuel-secure resources has been exacerbated by the current decline in energy demand. Immediate action to properly compensate resiliency is crucial to maintaining the reliable grid we have come to expect. The reliable baseload generation provided by our coal and nuclear fleets must not be taken for granted. In order to preserve the intrinsic, unique characteristics they provide, we must prioritize their longevity.

There is also bipartisan support for reducing carbon emissions with incentives for innovative capture and use technologies. Extending the 45Q tax credit, whose rules were long delayed even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and fixing the 48A credit to make it workable as intended would benefit policy goals across party lines. In addition, the refined coal tax credit, which is set to expire soon, should be extended. Each of these actions would restore investor confidence, resulting in increased development and decreased emissions. Further, permitting timelines continue to plague energy infrastructure from all sources and left unchecked will slow an economic recovery for jobs in the energy sector. Whether federal NEPA hurdles, FERC delays or politically overzealous states, we must place a high priority on reducing bureaucratic regulations.

We have legislative language ready to address each of these issues should further extensions of renewable energy incentives be considered in negotiations. It is time to level the playing field. Either we finally let these credits expire or balance the equation with incentives for baseload generation, innovative technology and energy infrastructure.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and your ongoing work to address the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to working with you moving forward.

Sincerely,



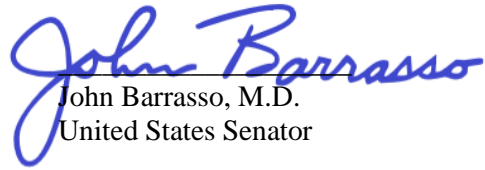
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United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Kelly Loeffler
United States Senator