



## **Rahall Anti-Wind Provision Says NO to Clean Wind Energy And YES to Global Warming**

Oppose Subtitle D of H.R. 2337  
“Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007”

**Wind energy is one of the most environmentally friendly energy technologies in the world today.** In addition to the benefits associated with a fuel source that requires no mining or drilling, no transportation, no hazardous waste disposal, and no water use, wind energy produces clean, emissions-free electricity without harmful greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide. It is the one readily available, cost-effective energy option we have to fight global warming. **Yet the new certification requirements of HR 2337 would bring wind energy development across the U.S. to a grinding halt despite the fact that the National Academy of Sciences has concluded wind turbines cause less than 0.003% of human-cause bird mortality.** (This is at least one thousand times lower than the mortality associated with house cats.)

**Subtitle D of H.R. 2337 imposes unnecessary, unworkable and unfair requirements, singling wind power out for new standards that have never been imposed on other energy sectors with far greater wildlife impacts.** Operators of wind turbines would be subject to large fines and jail terms for producing 100% clean energy. Farmers and rural landowners, who today benefit from hosting wind turbines on their land, would be subject to invasive new inspection requirements that violate basic private property rights for no apparent reason.

### **Subtitle D is unnecessary**

- Wind energy is no threat to birds relative to other human activities. The National Academy of Sciences recently concluded: “At the current level of U.S. installed wind capacity, the report found no evidence of significant impacts on bird populations.”
- The wind industry is already involved in several collaborative research programs on wildlife concerns such as bats and wildlife habitat impacts in order to build on the scant existing body of knowledge. Existing evidence suggests that fossil fuel fired electricity generation, not covered by these requirements, has far greater wildlife impacts.
- A Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee will soon convene to develop constructive, science-based recommendations. This body of experts is in a

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much better position to determine what is needed and how any national action will complement the numerous activities already underway at the state level.

- Wind power generation is already subject to six national environmental laws that protect wildlife including the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Bald Eagle Protection Act, the Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

#### **Subtitle D is unworkable**

- The broad mandate directing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to review every existing and planned wind project is far beyond the agency's resources and capabilities, and its certification requirements would close down the wind energy industry.
- Landowners and farmers who are interested in wind development would be hostile to the invasive inspection requirements in HR 2337.
- H.R. 2337 would make it a criminal act to generate wind power energy after the bill's unrealistic certification deadlines pass.
- **Landowners and farmers could face jail or a \$50,000 penalty for putting a wind turbine – of any size – on their private property without certification by the Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.**

#### **Subtitle D is unfair**

- The legislation singles out wind power for onerous requirements and entirely ignores wildlife impacts associated with other energy sources.
- The bill completely ignores the most serious effects of continued reliance on traditional fossil fuels, human-induced global warming, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has associated with mass extinctions of species. A widely reported 2004 international study found that up to **one million species** may be driven extinct by global warming by 2050.

#### **Subtitle D of HR 2337 moves the U.S. backward on our most important energy challenge**

**The bill would sidetrack the growing national movement toward climate-safe renewable energy.** It would not only undermine pending federal efforts to promote clean alternative energy and address global warming, but also thwart renewable energy standards now working successfully in more than 20 states. Wind power, an essential element of the global warming solution, would be sidelined by this bill's requirements.

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