
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: YOU & OTHER CONGRESSIONAL STAFF ASSISTANTS
FROM: CONGRESSMAN TREY COMMERCE
SUBJECT: CO-SPONSORING WIND ENERGY BILL – NEED ECONOMIC ANALYSIS
DATE: JUNE 12, 2016

As you know, I prefer action to words (as do our fine constituents in the Texas Panhandle), so I'll keep it brief. Two Congressmen have approached me about co-sponsoring bills related to regulation of energy producing wind turbines / wind-farms. I have decided that I should co-sponsor one of the bills, but I haven't decided which one.

I want you to analyze the concepts / core ideas behind each bill and tell me two things about each one:

- What's the likely economic impact if the bill becomes law (explain how you reach your conclusion)
- Is the bill legal? Because it doesn't make a lot of sense to co-sponsor the thing just to have SCOTUS over rule it.

Then I want you to tell me which bill I should co-sponsor and why. If you don't think I should sponsor either bill, explain to me the intent and mechanism of a wind-farm bill I should sponsor.

I want to sponsor some sort of bill on the issue because I need to show concern for environmental or conservation issues while not overly impeding active business, and sponsoring a bill on this issue is a good way to do it. After all, our nation will reach a point when we max out on the number of wind-turbines we need. It's already happened in Denmark; the wind-farms there sometimes produce more energy than that country actually needs, 140% on one day. We're not at that point in America yet, but there will inevitably come a time when we just won't need another wind turbine, so why not slow the growth rate of the industry now if there's some greater public good to accomplish.

Here's a brief description of each bill:

- *Adams Bill*
 - Intent: protect endangered species, particularly birds, bees, and bats, that are being killed by wind turbine blades (you can look up information on that. Note that we've got a particular reason to think about this in the Panhandle, because the passenger pigeon's back. You have from me the assurance that US Fish and Wildlife will have the passenger pigeon flagged as an endangered species by the end of the month).
 - Mechanism: tax private land owners annually for each turbine placed on their land by energy companies. Current plan is to make the tax \$30 per wind turbine, per year.

- *Melendez Bill*
 - Intent: reduce pollution, particularly smog, in urban areas (scientists, both private and employed by the Federal Government, have proven that smog in cities has increased each month since wind-farms were introduced in the US. The increase in pollution each month matches, in perfect ratio, the increase in the number of wind turbines in neighboring states. You can read more about that in the EPA report I attached to the memo. Bottom line, there's evidence that wind-farms in rural areas increase pollution in urban areas, and the EPA thinks the people making money off the wind-farms should pay to clean the air in the urban areas).
 - Mechanism: two part tax / tax abatement structure.
 1. A tax will be added to every American's electric bill, to be administered and collected by the electric companies then remanded to the government. This money will be used by the EPA to reduce smog in urban areas. It's estimated that this tax will work out to be an average of \$2 per month / per home.
 2. Reduce income taxes for urbanites in America (based on zip code, if you live in certain areas then your federal income taxes will be reduced by \$25 per year / per household.)

I want your answers in the following format. Give me a Powerpoint presentation as follows:

<u>Slide</u>	<u>Content</u>
1	Title of presentation. List of your team members.
2	Outline of presentation.
3	Brief recap of what I've asked you to do.
4	Additional information you think I should know (things that impact your analysis of both bills).
5	Introduce Adams Bill.
6 – 8	Analyze Adams Bill (including constitutionality).
9	Introduce Melendez Bill.
10 – 12	Analyze Melendez Bill (including constitutionality).
13 – 14	Which Bill should I sponsor and why.

Don't give me blocks of text on the slides. I don't have time for that. If I did, I would have asked you for a paper. I don't want a paper; I want a Powerpoint. Give me the highlights, the main points, in a clear, definite, well organized and readable way. If you need to include complex or detailed information, do it with quality tables, charts, or graphs. Use images too, the kind of things you think constituents would want to see if I was discussing the issue with them. I might use the Powerpoint slides when I meet with special interest groups.

Cite your sources clearly in footnotes on the slides. Use APA citation format. Cite to at least three (3) articles in the Law & Economic Articles folder. Cite at least two (2) other sources, so the total minimum sources you cite will be five (5).