



U.S. Taxpayers to Pay \$425 Million to Create 2,000 Green Jobs in China

A Case Study in How We Can Miss Out on the Green Jobs Revolution

We've been talking a lot about "green jobs" in this country – about how the opportunity to save our environment can create jobs and spark a renewal in manufacturing. We've also warned that this opportunity is neither green nor a solution to our economic woes if these jobs go to China or elsewhere.

Sadly, we have a real-life example of what we mean, an example of the kind of opportunity we will lose if we don't insist that we create and keep good manufacturing jobs at home.

In November 2009, the new media revealed that the developer of a planned Texas wind farm is seeking – and expects to receive – more than \$425 million in stimulus funds for the project. The wind farm is estimated to create a few-hundred temporary construction jobs along with about 30 ongoing jobs in the United States. Meanwhile, it is expected to create more than 2,000 jobs in China. That's because a Chinese firm will be the exclusive supplier of the wind turbines for the project.

Here are some facts:

- **China Artificially Lowers the Cost of their Exports, While U.S. Producers Struggle:** In case after case, China is continually found to provide massive subsidies to its domestic manufacturers along with other tactics to undercut U.S. producers. Consider that while China's wind-turbine producing industry grows, in the first three quarters of 2009, there were 33 percent fewer announcements of U.S. wind turbine factory expansions compared to 2008.
- **China Plans on Continuing Their Investments in the U.S. Renewable Industry in Order to Create a Market for Their Manufacturers:** Lu Jinxiang, an executive involved with the West Texas deal, was recently quoted as saying that "this is just the beginning" and the U.S. is "an ideal target" given our desire to promote renewable energy.
- **We Can't Afford to Give Up Good-Paying Manufacturing Jobs:** Unemployment now stands above 10 percent. Adding in those who have stopped looking or are not working as much as they would like takes the rate above 17 percent. Now is the time to make a real commitment to American jobs through a solid policy to promote manufacturing, as so many other nations already have. We need to get our country and our communities back on track.
- **Green jobs can help reinvigorate the U.S. manufacturing base and provide quality, sustainable jobs for millions of Americans while promoting a cleaner environment:** The stimulus bill was supposed to spark this activity – not create green jobs overseas. These wind turbines, their main components and other "green" products, can be made in the US – at least for the moment. It's time to rethink our policies and renew our commitment to quality jobs in the U.S.