



## **Colorado Senate GOP Candidates: Out of Touch on Wind Energy**

The Production Tax Credit (PTC) for wind energy is good for Colorado, creating jobs and preserving clean air, which explains why it is wildly popular – four out of five Coloradans support preserving this essential tax incentive.

Perhaps that's why it's also good politics to support the PTC in Colorado. It's not surprising that an opponent of the PTC, GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, lost the state in 2012, while a supporter, Senator Cory Gardner, won in 2014.

Yet all five of the Republicans running for Senate are on the record opposing this critical tax incentive. **Blaha, Frazier, Glenn, Graham, and Keyser have all shown they are deeply out of touch with Colorado voters and would be allied with big polluters in Congress.**

## **ALL FIVE REPUBLICANS RUNNING FOR SENATE IN COLORADO WANT TO END THE WIND ENERGY TAX CREDIT, PUTTING THEM AT ODDS WITH COLORADO VOTERS**

**All Five Republican Senate Candidates In Colorado – Blaha, Frazier, Glenn, Graham, And Keyser – Said They Would Get Rid Of the Production Tax Credit For Wind Energy.** On June 10, 2016, Americans for Prosperity hosted a forum attended by Senate candidates Robert Blaha, Ryan Frazier, Darryl Glenn, Jack Graham, and Jon Keyser. During the forum, the moderator asked, "I want to know if you guys would keep it or dump it – the wind Production Tax Credit." All five candidates said that they would, in fact, "dump" the Production Tax Credit. The moderator then said, "See, we're doing good." [Americans for Prosperity, [6/10/16](#)]

**Nearly 4 In 5 Coloradans Support Tax Credits For Wind Energy.** In a 2015 survey of western states, 77 percent of Coloradans indicated that they want to "continue tax incentives for solar and wind energy production." [Colorado College poll (pg. 13), [December 2015](#)]

## **FOR COLORADO, INVESTING IN WIND ENERGY MEANS MORE JOBS**

**For Colorado, Investing In Wind Energy Means Up To 7,000 Jobs, Billions In Capital Investment, And Up To \$10 Million In Annual Land Lease Payments.** In Colorado, investing in wind power is "an investment in jobs, including jobs in operations and maintenance, construction, manufacturing and many support sectors. In addition, wind projects produce lease payments for landowners and increase the tax base of communities. 2015 direct and indirect jobs supported: 6,001 to 7,000. Total capital investment: \$5.5 billion. Annual land lease payments: \$5-10 million." [AWEA Colorado Fact Sheet, [accessed 6/23/16](#)]

**Xcel Energy & Vestas Teamed Up To Build Largest Wind Farm In Colorado.** In April 2016, the [Denver Business Journal](#) reported, "Xcel Energy is teaming up with Vestas Wind Systems to build Colorado's largest wind farm, a huge 600-megawatt project in eastern Colorado. David Eves — president and CEO of Public Service Co. of Colorado, Xcel's subsidiary in the state — announced the plan Tuesday at Vestas' wind-turbine nacelles factory in Brighton. Vestas will build the 300 turbines for the project, Eves said ... Vestas currently has nearly 4,000 employees in Colorado." [[Denver Business Journal](#), [4/12/16](#)]

- **[Denver Business Journal](#) Headline: "Xcel, Vestas To Build Colorado's Biggest Wind Farm."** [[Denver Business Journal](#), [4/12/16](#)]



## **OPPOSING INVESTMENTS IN WIND ENERGY DIDN'T GO OVER TOO WELL FOR MITT ROMNEY IN 2012; CORY GARDNER TOOK NOTE & SUPPORTED IT IN 2014**

**Denver Post Column: Mitt Romney Was “Trying To Blow It” In 2012 Presidential Race By Opposing Wind Tax Credit, Which Had “Notable Bipartisan Support Both In Colorado And Nationally.”** In an August 2012 Denver Post op-ed, columnist Curtis Hubbard wrote, “Is Mitt Romney trying to blow it? That’s the question that came to mind last week as his campaign repeatedly asserted his opposition to an extension of the production tax credit for wind energy. The credit, which is set to expire at the end of this year, helps the fledgling industry compete with other forms of energy. It has notable bipartisan support both in Colorado and nationally ... This is the rare issue with bipartisan support that Romney should be embracing.” [Curtis Hubbard op-ed, Denver Post, [8/2/12](#)]

**Mitt Romney Lost Colorado By 5 Percent.** In the 2012 presidential election in Colorado, Barack Obama received 1,238,490 votes (51 percent), while Mitt Romney received 1,125,391 votes (46 percent). [Denver Post, [2012 Results](#)]

**In 2014 Cory Gardner Endorsement, Denver Post Noted That He Was An “Early Supporter Among Republicans Of Renewable Energy.”** In October 2014, the Denver Post endorsed Cory Gardner for U.S. Senate over Mark Udall, saying, “Udall is a fine man with good intentions, and on some issues our views are closer to his than to Gardner’s. But he is not perceived as a leader in Washington and, with rare exceptions such as wind energy and intelligence gathering, he is not at the center of the issues that count — as his Democratic colleague, Sen. Michael Bennet, always seems to be ... If Gardner had been a cultural warrior throughout his career, we would hesitate to support him, because we strongly disagree with him on same-sex marriage and abortion rights. But in fact he has emphasized economic and energy issues (and was, for example, an early supporter among Republicans of renewable energy).” [Editorial, Denver Post, [10/10/14](#)]

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