



# FACTS & OPINIONS

*On Public Interest Issues*

## Quotes

“If we admit that men and women are different in ways that have moral significance, then almost all the sexual ideologies of our time come crashing down.”

– R.R. Reno, 2014, Editor of *First Things*, The Institute on Religion and Public Life

“The three major administrative problems on a campus are sex for the students, athletics for the alumni, and parking for the faculty.”

– Robert M. Hutchins (1899 - 1977), President and Chancellor of the University of Chicago

“Both humans and hawks eat chickens — but the more hawks, the fewer chickens; while the more humans, the more chickens.”

– Henry George (1839 - 1897), American Economist

## What If Obama’s Climate Change Policies Are Based on pHraud?

By Marita Noon, Executive Director,  
Energy Makes America Great Inc.

“Ocean acidification” (OA) is claimed to be a phenomenon that will destroy ocean life — all due to mankind’s use of fossil fuels. The claim of OA is a critical foundation to the full spectrum of climate change assertions.

Dr. Richard A. Feely is a senior scientist with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) — part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). His four-page report, *Carbon Dioxide and Our Ocean Legacy*, offered on the NOAA website, contains a chart titled “Historical & Projected pH & Dissolved Co<sub>2</sub>,” which shows a decline in seawater pH (making it more acidic) that appears to coincide with increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

Mike Wallace is a hydrologist with nearly 30 years’ experience, who is now working on his Ph.D. In the course of his studies, he uncovered something that he told me “eclipses even the so-called climategate event.”

Feely’s work is based on computer models that don’t line up with real-world data — which Feely acknowledged in e-mail communications with Wallace. Feely, and his coauthor Dr. Christopher L. Sabine, PMEL Director, omitted 80 years of data, which incorporate more than two million records of ocean pH levels.

The Feely chart began in 1850, which caught Wallace’s attention since similar charts

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Dr. Don Racheter, President  
Deborah D. Thornton, Editor

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## The Latest Tea Party Scam Called From (202) 750-2399

By Erick Erickson, Editor, [RedState.com](http://RedState.com)

This phone number has called my home repeatedly for the past week. I have an unlisted phone number and am on the national Do Not Call Registry, yet the calling continues.

They called again right at 9 o'clock this morning to my unlisted, "do not call" number. The "do not call" part apparently does not apply to political and charitable calls. The caller ID said "Tea Party" and called from (202) 750-2399. I figured I'd answer and see what was going on.

A lady announced that she is calling on behalf of the Tea Party effort to support Senator Rand Paul (R-KY). She wanted me to listen to a brief message about the call. I consented. It was clear Senator Rand Paul had nothing to do with the call. The recorded message said the Tea Party was fighting to support Tea Party candidates like Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Senator Rand Paul and to stop the socialist agenda of Barack Obama.

Then there was a survey asking if the Tea Party should focus on the economy, immigration, or holding the President accountable.

At that point, some older man came on the phone. The lady had vanished. He wanted

me to join the Tea Party for \$100.00 — a special discount from \$200.00 because he said they were trying to grow membership in my area.

He could not tell me which Tea Party organization he was with, just the Tea Party itself.

From the groups claiming to represent Ben Carson to the groups raising money for Allen West to now a group claiming to raise money to "Stop Jeb Bush," I think more and more older conservatives are getting scammed by con-men living well off other people's money.

I doubt very much that much, if any, of the money is going to support these causes. More and more reviews of records show it is just going to line the pockets of consultants and lawyers.

It is a terrible blight on the conservative movement and on the Tea Party in particular that the hucksters have come up to cash in.

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all began in 1988. Needing the historic pH data for a project, he went to the source. The NOAA paper with the chart lists Dave Bard as the contact.

Wallace sent Bard an e-mail: “I’m looking in fact for the source references for the red curve in their plot which was labeled ‘Historical & Projected pH & Dissolved Co<sub>2</sub>.’ This plot is at the top of the second page. It covers the period of my interest.” Bard suggested that Wallace communicate with Feely and Sabine — which he did over a period of several months.

Wallace asked again for the “time series data (NOT MODELING) of ocean pH for 20<sup>th</sup> century.” Sabine responded by saying that it was inappropriate for Wallace to question their “motives or quality of our science,” adding that if he continued in this manner, “you will not last long in your career.” He then included links to Websites that Wallace, after spending hours reviewing them, called “blind alleys.” Sabine concludes the e-mail with: “I hope you will refrain from contacting me again.” But communications did continue for several more exchanges.

In a May 25, 2013 e-mail, Wallace offers some statements, which he asks Feely/Sabine to confirm.



Essentially, the statements say that the curve was created without the use of historical data.

Sabine confirmed that the statements were “correct.” He added: “The rest of the curve you are trying to reproduce is from a modeling study that Dr. Feely has already provided and referenced in the publication.”

In this same general timeframe, NOAA reissued its World Ocean Database. Wallace was then able to extract the instrumental records he sought and turned the glass electrode pH meter data into a time series chart, which reveals that the oceans are not acidifying.

Regarding the chart in question, Wallace believes: “They replaced that (historical) part of their curve through the execution of an epic data omission — which

was apparently the only way that ocean scientists have been able to assert that the oceans are acidifying.”

Wallace authored a petition (<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/restore-the-worlds-ocean-ph-measurements>) that he encourages my readers to sign.

Wallace concludes: “Ocean acidification may seem like a minor issue to some, but it is a crucial leg to the entire narrative of ‘human-influenced climate change.’ By urging our leaders to disclose and correct these omissions, you will be helping to bring honesty and accountability back where it is most needed.”

*Originally published December 23, 2014, reprinted with permission of the author. The author of Energy Freedom, Marita Noon serves as the Executive Director for Energy Makes America Great Inc.*

## 2015 Looks Grim for Wind Energy. How Will the Industry Adapt?

By Herman K. Trabish, Utilitydive.com

### Developers are steeling themselves for a future without federal tax credits

The final say from Congress on wind's production tax credit set off a frantic scramble that will last through New Year's Eve.

"We are starting construction left and right," said OwnEnergy CEO Jacob Susman. Projects that meet the IRS standard for starting construction by the end of the year will qualify for the \$0.023 per kilowatt-hour production tax credit (PTC).

A deal on business tax credits would have extended the PTC two years, through the end of 2015. But the White House reportedly tried to leverage House Republicans' commitment to the deal into permanent tax incentives for low-income workers and middle-class families, issuing a veto threat on a previous tax compromise.

That backfired. On December 3, the House passed a retroactive one-year extension of the tax credit package, meaning the credits expire at the end of this year.

The Senate pushed it over the finish line December 16.

### The three-week extension

"The extension to the end of 2014 will only allow minimal new wind development," said American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) CEO Tom Kiernan.

"There are only three weeks to dig holes or safe harbor turbines," explained Renewable Energy Systems Americas CEO Glen Davis. He was referring to the two standards by which the IRS defines starting construction.

One way is "'incurring' at least 5 percent of the final project cost," explained Chadbourne Partner Keith Martin, who specializes in tax and project finance law. The other way is "to commence 'physical work of a significant nature.'"

After the House passed its bill, the scramble started "to take delivery of additional equipment from wind turbine manufacturers," Martin added, and to "search for excavation and road contractors who can get to work on project sites before year end."

This means 2015 is likely to look a lot like 2013, Kiernan has said. Because Congress failed to extend the 2012 PTC until January 1, 2013, installed capacity dropped 92 percent for the year. For lack of new orders, the supply chain started shutting down by mid-2012. Some 30,000 of the industry's 80,000 jobs were lost.

The one-year PTC extension that Congress finally provided for 2013 included, for the first time, the start construction provision. It allowed projects that started construction by the end of 2014 to qualify for the PTC if they were online by the end of 2015.

Because it took the supply chain most of 2013 to ramp up to full capacity, developers focused on digging holes and safe harboring turbines and transformers.

### The PTC and 2015

Some 13,600 megawatts of new U.S. capacity were under construction and expected to be online by the end of 2015, AWEA Data and Analysis Manager Emily Williams reported last month.



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About 4,500 megawatts to 5,000 megawatts were at that time expected to be online by the end of 2014, with the balance going into service in 2015.

The overall impact of the one-year PTC extension, Susman said, will be the “shift of some of the 2015 activity, where people would have raced to get stuff into the ground, to 2016. It will add a couple to a few gigawatts of incremental capacity to both of those years.”

“By the middle of 2015,” predicted a wind industry veteran who asked not to be named, “there will be consolidation and workforce reductions in the supply

chain and developers and manufacturers will be looking for opportunity outside the U.S. but in this hemisphere.”

But wind developers are not in scale-down mode right now, Davis said. “We will see an impact in 2015 because what can be pushed through in this short period to the end of the year is limited. But these projects have a life cycle that will take them into 2016.”

Though prices aren’t going to change much in any 12-month period, several industry insiders said, the downward trend in wind’s cost will continue, from increasing deployment of newer turbines that supply more power at the same cost.

A bigger impact on prices could come if interest rates rise, Davis said. Yields are keeping the cost of capital low, but they rely on growth. If growth slows and rates rise, it will push prices up.

“The supply chain will be busy getting equipment to the projects that make it through,” Davis said. “That 12-month to 18-month cycle will keep the supply chain busy until about the middle of 2016.”

The legislation also curtails the investment tax credit vital to builders of under-one-megawatt distributed wind, said Distributed Wind Energy Association Executive Director Jennifer Jenkins. They will turn their focus to rural cooperatives, islanded grids, and wind-diesel hybrid installations.

### **The non-PTC environment**

The wind industry is also going to begin thinking about “the non-PTC environment,” Davis predicted.

Immediately, new power purchase agreements (PPAs) will be completed. “In the uncertainty, nobody was signing a PPA even if the mid-\$40s per kilowatt-hour non-PTC price was competitive. Now it is clear there is no



PTC and no more mid-\$20s PPAs, so people can roll up their sleeves and see what will work.”

Beyond 2015, solar comes into the equation, Davis said. Solar’s 30 percent investment tax credit (ITC) is scheduled to drop to 10 percent at the start of 2017.

“2016 is expected to be a very busy year for tax equity due to competition from solar companies rushing to complete solar projects before the December 2016 deadline,” Martin explained. “Tax equity investors will have more projects from which to choose than there is available capacity. They will choose the ones that present the fewest tax risks.”

“The most likely thing is that solar will get a start construction provision for the 30 percent ITC through

the end of 2016,” Davis said. “That will mean a longer period of solar procurement but some of the investment will likely go to wind, on sheer economics.”

Further out, when both the PTC and the ITC are minimized, he added, “the expectation is that the cost curve for solar will drop faster. Wind may be the more economic choice in the mid-term but that may switch back.”

Around 2017 or 2018, the Clean Power Plan will come into play as a driver, Davis and Susman agreed.

### **Good things coming in 2015**

“The most important thing that is going to happen in 2015 is more direct wind purchasing by enterprise customers like Yahoo,” Susman said. “In installed

megawatts, next year will be good but nothing off the charts. But it will be the second year in a row of 500 megawatts to 1,000 megawatts of PPAs from the tech industry and Fortune 100 companies. They are saying to their electricity providers ‘if you won’t provide us wind power, we will get it for ourselves.’”

“The corporates are buying in greater amounts,” Davis agreed. “But it is not a panacea because wind has to be price competitive or they will go elsewhere.”

While about 7 gigawatts of offshore wind is installed globally and 6.6 gigawatts more are in construction, none of the 14 U.S. projects, representing 4.9 gigawatts of capacity, have started construction. But “this is the year it happens,” Deepwater Wind CEO Jeff Grybowski recently said. Both Deepwater Wind’s five-turbine, 30-megawatt Block Island Wind Farm off Rhode Island and the 468-megawatt Cape Wind project in Nantucket Sound are expected to have steel in the water by late 2015.

“2015 looks like it will be the year U.S. offshore wind starts construction,” agreed Southeastern Coastal Wind Coalition President Brian O’Hara. “It is the biggest news likely to happen.” Also important in the longer term, O’Hara



said, are a just-released set of maps that show new potential for onshore wind in the as-yet undeveloped Southeast. Today's taller towers and longer blades are already driving interest in North Carolina wind development by Iberdrola Renewables and Apex Clean Energy, he said.

Southern Company subsidiary Georgia Power will announce its choices in February for new resource measurements and pilot project proposals, O'Hara said. It could be the beginning of a new economic opportunity for the region.

State renewables mandates will continue to drive wind's growth, especially in wind-rich states where high capacity factors make low PPA prices feasible. In many of those states, EPA pollution regulations are forcing coal plant closures. The combination of the mandates and wind's competitive, 20-year fixed PPA prices will make it preferable to price-volatile natural gas.

### **Conclusion – tax reform?**

AWEA and the wind industry will come back for something better next spring, the unnamed source promised. It will face bolstered resistance from Koch brothers-backed activist groups but it will be able to count on support from wind-state Republicans, almost all Democrats, and from the diverse business interests that benefit from the

tax-credit package.

An upside case, explained Susman, would have Republicans in control of both chambers of Congress reaching across the aisle to show they can move legislation. That could be tax reform that includes a leveling of the playing field for all energy incentives and a multi-year ramp down of the PTC.

Dropping the PTC to something like 80 percent of the \$0.023 per kilowatt-hour in 2016, 60 percent in 2017, and zero in 2018 is a deal the wind industry might

take in return for longer term certainty. And the administration might accept it as part of its larger climate goals legacy.

Or, Susman said, "We might all be here at this time next year going through the same thing on another three-week extenders package."

*Reprinted with permission of Utilitydive.com, originally published December 18, 2014, <<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/2015-looks-grim-for-wind-energy-how-will-the-industry-adapt/345786/>>.*

## Iowa Wesleyan College Update

On Saturday, November 8, Iowa Wesleyan hosted 87 prospective students and their families for Tiger Spirit Day. Our 210 visitors spent the day meeting with professors, coaches, and students, touring residence halls, and attending a football game.

The NCAA two-year provisional membership video conference occurred in mid-November. Two members of the NCAA staff met via video with IWC athletics, admissions, financial aid, and the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR). The NCAA stated that we are doing an excellent job and moving in great directions in our membership process.

On November 9 – 10, a team of four attended the Association of Governing Boards workshop, Strengthening Board Committees, in Chicago. The workshop explored best practices in the development of highly effective committees and provided tangible solutions to governance challenges boards may currently be experiencing.

Second semester starts January 13, 2015, with spring break March 6 – 15, and the semester ends May 7.



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## Rape and Sexual Assault Among College-Age Females, 1995 - 2013

By Lynn Langton, Ph.D.,  
and Sofi Sinozich, Intern,  
Bureau of Justice Statistics,  
U.S. Department of Justice,  
December 11, 2014, Report:  
NCJ 248471, < <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/rsavcaf9513.pdf>>.

Compares the characteristics of rape and sexual assault victimization against females ages 18 to 24 who are enrolled and not enrolled in college. Data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). Also discusses

methodological differences between the NCVS and other surveys that measure rape and sexual assault victimization and the impact of these differences on rape and sexual assault estimates.

### Highlights:

\* The rate of rape and sexual assault was 1.2 times higher for non-students (7.6 per 1,000) than for students (6.1 per 1,000).

\* For both college students and non-students, the offender was known to the victim in about 80% of rape and sexual assault victimizations.

\* Most (51%) student rape and sexual assault occurred while the victim was pursuing leisure activities away from home, compared to non-students who were engaged in other activities at home (50%) when the victimization occurred.

\* The offender had a weapon in about 1 in 10 rape and sexual assault victimizations against both students and non-students.

\* Rape and sexual assault victimizations of students (80%) were more likely than non-student victimizations (67%) to go unreported to police.