

AWEA to Wind Supporters— DON'T PANIC

Despite posting its slowest quarter since early 2007, AWEA remains optimistic that the wind industry can and will work successfully with the revolving doors in Washington. Denise Bode, CEO of AWEA, addressed the mid-term elections and 2010 third-quarter results in a recent wind industry webcast in November.

"After years of strong growth for wind energy in this country, our numbers are slowing because Washington gridlock has stalled any progress on solid and certain investment policies," Bode said. "The 85,000 Americans in the wind energy industry hope the new Congress will act to include more renewable energy as part of America's future."

During the webcast, Bode discussed the dramatic shift of power in Washington and what it means for the future of wind energy in America.

"The U.S. wind energy industry looks forward to working with John Boehner, the next Speaker of the House. Like us, he wants to 'reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, protect us against blackmail by foreign dictators, create American jobs and grow our economy,' as Rep. Boehner says on his website. He says he wants to roll up his sleeves and get to work creating jobs. The market-based policies that drive renewable energy—tax credits and resource portfolio standards—are perfectly compatible with Rep. Boehner's agenda, and have been supported on a bipartisan basis at the state and federal level for over a decade," Bode said.

AWEA will continue to discuss renewable policies with government officials including Sen. Mark Kirk (Illinois), Sen. Michael Bennet (Colorado), Rep. Jerry Moran (Kansas), Sen. Chris Coons (Delaware) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut), in the hopes of adding jobs and spurring economic development in both red and



A wind farm in Evanston, Wyoming features Vestas turbines (courtesy of Vestas Wind Systems).

blue states.

Bode said new Republican and Democratic representatives need to learn that wind energy can keep costs down for consumers and provide an opportunity for in-sourcing and bringing investments from abroad back to the United States.

The growth of wind energy in the last five years has been aided by the production tax credit, support of a refundable tax credit under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and state requirements for renewable energy. "We're still the fastest growing manufacturing sector in the United States with nearly 400 facilities supplying components to the industry," Bode added.

Members of Congress have supported the U.S. wind energy sector for many years according to the AWEA because they know it creates jobs for Americans and investment in the economy, as well as homegrown clean

energy made in the United States.

"Public opinion is still strongly behind wind energy and our job is to provide factual information and show the American people that wind remains an engine for growth," Bode said.

It's long-term legislation from Washington that will prove both Republicans and Democrats are ready to make the commitment. Elizabeth Salerno, director of industry data and analysis at AWEA, discussed the third quarter results during the webcast.

Only 395 MW of capacity were installed in the third quarter of 2010, and industry installations were down 72 percent from 2009, according to Salerno. She also compared statistics here in the United States with the global wind community. Currently, the United States lags far behind both Europe as well as China in new wind installations. It's not from lack of effort, as approximately 4,700 MW of projects have started construction in the past six months, more than 10 new requests for proposals for utility-scale wind projects were issued in the third quarter and at least nine new wind projects signed long-term power purchase agreements.

Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and other third-party sources show that wind accounted for 39 percent of new installed capacity in 2009, versus 13 percent from coal. In the first nine months of 2010, the ratio has flipped, and wind accounted for only 14 percent versus 39 percent from coal.

"We're increasing our dependence on fossil fuels, impacting our national security, instead of diversifying our portfolio to include more renewable," Bode said.

"The post-2010 world of wind energy is filled with question marks because we don't know where the economy or policies are going to land," Salerno said. "All of these factors really push around the growth in wind."