

REPLY TO:

- 135 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
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- 721 FEDERAL BUILDING
210 WALNUT STREET
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2106
(515) 288-1145
- 111 7TH AVENUE, SE, Box 13
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CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401-2101
(319) 363-6832

United States Senate

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE EMERITUS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1501

REPLY TO:

- 120 FEDERAL BUILDING
320 6TH STREET
SIOUX CITY, IA 51101-1244
(712) 233-1860
- 210 WATERLOO BUILDING
531 COMMERCIAL STREET
WATERLOO, IA 50701-5497
(319) 232-6657
- 201 WEST 2ND STREET
SUITE 720
DAVENPORT, IA 52801-1817
(563) 322-4331
- 307 FEDERAL BUILDING
8 SOUTH 6TH STREET
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA 51501-4204
(712) 322-7103

October 20, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

I would like to bring to your attention the impending loss of a significant number of green manufacturing jobs in Iowa. It has recently been brought to my attention that the TPI Composites facility located in Newton, Iowa, will be closing its doors on December 31, 2021. TPI Composites is a leading manufacturer of wind blades across the U.S. and has produced more than 70,000 wind blades since 2001. In Jasper County, Iowa, TPI Composites serves as the community's largest employer, employing roughly 700 people.

Newton has been through this before. For more than a century, Newton was a quintessential Iowa community, home to an iconic American company that provided good manufacturing jobs. Maytag started building washing machines there in 1893. But in 2007, after Whirlpool acquired Maytag, Whirlpool announced it was moving operations out of Newton.

In 2017, GE bought a wind turbine company based in Denmark. As a result, GE has not placed an order with TPI Composites for 2022. Without GE's business, TPI Composites will be forced to shut down their operation, eliminating hundreds of Iowa jobs.

TPI Composites is not the only business impacted. Dallas, Texas, based company, Arcosa Wind Towers, announced the layoff of 82 employees as of October 19, 2021. Those employees account for half the company's wind tower workforce.

On your campaign website, you stated that "If executed strategically, our response to climate change can create more than 10 million well-paying jobs in the United States that will grow a stronger, more inclusive middle class enjoyed by communities across the country, not just in cities along the coasts." Most recently, you have pledged to cut the nation's fossil fuel emissions 50 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 by designing policies to promote clean energy.

RANKING MEMBER,
JUDICIARY

AGRICULTURE
BUDGET
FINANCE

CO-CHAIRMAN,
CAUCUS ON
INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL

In order to meet such an ambitious goal, it will be vital to retain and grow our existing base of American clean energy jobs. Yet in Iowa, people who already work in the clean energy sector are getting pink slips. Iowa leads the country in wind energy production with over 9,000 jobs and nearly 60% of our energy coming from wind. But for now, many Iowa families are distressed with news that they will not have a job come the New Year.

Our state is proud to rank second behind Texas in terms of production and first in wind power share. As the “father” of the Wind Energy Incentives Act of 1993, I sought to give this renewable energy source the ability to compete with traditional, finite sources. This past year, the wind industry supported over 116,000 U.S. jobs. In 1993, I did not imagine the degree of success that we see today.

Last week, Secretary Deb Haaland said that her agency will begin to identify, demarcate and hope to eventually lease federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of Maine and off the coasts of the Mid-Atlantic States, North Carolina and South Carolina, California and Oregon, to wind power developers by 2025. This should help grow the wind industry resulting in job increases for manufacturers.

Wind energy will be vital to deliver on your promises of creating clean energy jobs and lowering our greenhouse gas emissions. However, we both know that the only way we can accomplish this is with the hard work, grit, and determination that comes from the American people, like those in Newton, Iowa.

With that in mind, I ask that you keep Newton and other American communities in mind when you speak to leaders in the business, environmental, and political communities about renewable energy potential. Newton is home to a talented workforce, and hundreds of employees that in January will be without work.

Policies that allow wind to continue to grow and expand its share of electrical generation are helpful, but will not reap benefits in terms of jobs if the overall labor and business climate pushes manufacturing offshore. I ask you to review the situation in Newton and do everything in your power to ensure that workers in Iowa and America are helped and not hurt by economic and environmental policies going forward.

I welcome you to use my office as a resource going forward for information about the clean energy research, innovation, and products produced in the middle of the country.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chuck" and last name "Grassley" clearly legible.

Charles Grassley
United States Senator