

today, wind does not happen overnight. Bringing a wind project to fruition requires meticulous studies, surveys, permitting, and other development activities. The careful placement and development of wind can take years.

We are proud that our projects have boosted the economies of small towns and rural communities across the state. Landowner payments and additional tax revenue for communities provides funding for new roads, schools, and other infrastructure across the community. Farming is sporadic. Today crop prices are high, however, we do not know what prices will be tomorrow. A sustainable income for farmers means more investment in equipment, technology, and the family farm.

Without the PTC extension our pipeline of projects will be at risk. Hundreds of MWs of wind development will be stalled. This lapse will interfere with permitting, interconnection, and other development activities. Developers in Minnesota need a stable market. We look forward to further development across the state. With an extension of the PTC we will be able to ensure the livelihood of rural communities and increase Minnesota leadership within the wind industry.

STATEMENT BY MR. MARK AHLSTROM OF
WINDLOGICS

Wind farms are power plants that use wind as their fuel, so careful analysis is needed to find good locations and understand the wind patterns. WindLogics is a Saint Paul company with 52 people here in Minnesota and we provide these weather analysis services to project developers throughout the country. We were bigger. Because it takes time to collect and analyze the weather data to create good projects, we felt the impact of the Production Tax Credit expiration more than nine months ago and had to reduce our staff by 10 people.

It takes 18 months to plan and build a wind project even under the best of circumstances, and companies cannot plan and finance wind projects with uncertainty around the tax credit. So because we work early in the project development cycle, what we saw last fall was that project planning for 2013 essentially stopped.

This is a terrible shame because we have clients who want to invest billions of dollars in new wind projects. The industry has scaled up to the point where it can contribute \$20 billion a year in private investment to the U.S. economy, with U.S. manufacturing and jobs, but this is on hold until the Production Tax Credit is renewed. New projects can't just stop and start instantly, so any delay on renewing the tax credit just puts us that much further behind.

Wind energy is a great business that I love, and I want WindLogics to get back to helping people build new projects. We need a prompt renewal of the Production Tax Credit to make that happen.

STATEMENT BY MR. TIM MAAG OF MORTENSON
CONSTRUCTION'S RENEWABLE ENERGY

I'll echo the others in emphasizing the importance of this PTC extension. Due to the undeniable success of the PTC, businesses like Mortenson have been able to provide stable jobs for American families.

Mortenson Construction is a Minneapolis-based, family-owned construction company, with over 2,200 full time employees. Mortenson has offices in Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Phoenix, and Seattle with international operations in Canada and China. Ranked as the 19th largest contractor in America, according to Engineering News-Record, a large portion of Mortenson's business is generated from the wind industry—nearly 30% of the company's annual revenue. Over 800 craft workers and

350 salaried professionals work in Mortenson's Renewable Energy groups and are focused on constructing renewable energy and transmission & distribution projects. The PTC has contributed greatly to our organization's positive growth in the renewable energy sector.

In 1995 Mortenson constructed our first wind project in Adair, IA, and have constructed over 120 wind projects across North America to date. We've witnessed technology advancements over the past seven years, driven by the PTC, that have helped to make wind energy more affordable and projects more cost competitive. Our construction projects have grown from a handful of turbines to large, multi-phase projects spanning hundreds of square miles.

Right now, Mortenson is building 18 wind projects in 10 states, all scheduled to complete before the end of 2012. Each project constructed in the US bolsters our country's larger economy while playing a vital role in sustaining smaller local economies across America. We've seen firsthand the significant and revitalizing impact on rural communities surrounding wind projects. Over the construction period, jobs are made available to the local labor force, major construction contracts are awarded to local businesses and suppliers, while fabrication, maintenance, and repair shops all see increasingly positive economic impacts due to the wind project. Throughout the life of a project, more than \$500,000 may be infused into an area's hotels, restaurants, and living facilities due to construction traveler spending alone.

While Mortenson maintains an aggressive and busy 2012, those here who have spoken before me, are the leading indicators for the likelihood of future project construction. Due to the lack of a PTC extension, we're seeing a decline in turbine orders and hesitation to develop projects. Mortenson is uncertain of the number of US wind farms we will construct in 2013. This will impact the livelihood of hundreds of employees, subcontractors and other industry partners across the country.

The uncertainty surrounding the PTC extension threatens the success of and further development of the wind industry, and thereby the American economy. Because of the long-term nature of the planning and permitting process, short-term extensions of PTC are insufficient for sustaining consistent, long term growth of the industry. In conjunction with those here today, we implore our legislators to reinstate the PTC. A long-term (2-4 year) extension is crucial to averting the damaging impact to America's labor force and the long-term growth of our industry, which holds so much promise to our future generations.

STATEMENT BY MR. DOUG FREDRICKSON OF
BLATTNER ENERGY

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the PTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier.

There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Construction may be an industry that has little fear from job loss due to "outsourcing". But you can still lose your job and that's why we're today. The PTC is going to expire and with it tens of thousands of good jobs will be lost. Blattner Energy is a 105 year old Minnesota construction company. We worked on our first wind farm at Lake Benton, Minnesota in 1997. We were significantly smaller than. But that first opportunity positioned us to

grow with the wind industry nationwide. Today Blattner and Mortenson are the two largest builders of wind farms in North America.

At Blattner we employ approximately 1,500 people directly in wind and more through our subcontractors and suppliers. Of course our role in a wind project is the last one. Consequently, our employees will be busy right up until December 31 of this year. But as was mentioned earlier, new wind work in 2013 is unlikely and reduction will have to occur.

Blattner has been in the wind industry for 15 years. We have seen the PTC expire before. But there is so much more at stake now than earlier. There are 500 US manufacturing facilities building components for the wind industry. Once those facilities close, a stable enough wind industry environment may never exist for them to be recaptured. They will be outsourced again overseas. Those jobs are beginning to diminish right now because there is no positive signal that a stable tax policy will be in place in the future. We ask Congress to continue its bi-partisan support for the PTC. Keep people working and extend the PTC now before your recess.

BB-USS TEXAS 35

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as a kid growing up in Spring Branch, I always looked forward to the long days of the hot Texas summers. Long days meant more time to play outside. I didn't know that summers in the other parts of the world were not steamy like here in Houston. (I now tell my friends in Washington that are from the north, that Houston has two seasons: Summer and August.) Like most kids in the neighborhood, my sister, Jayne, and I played outdoors a good portion of the day and didn't come in 'til dark. We knew that when the porch light came on, we had to be home within five minutes of seeing the "beacon" or there would be consequences. Occasionally, we got to take summer excursions with the family to the battlegrounds, the Monument and, of course, the Battleship Texas.

My fondness for the USS Texas began in those days and has stuck with me throughout my life and career. As kids, we thought it was "cool" that Texas had its own battleship. We would pretend to shoot the guns on the ship, run through the countless corridors, hide in the nooks and crannies, and generally live in the disappearing past of the history of the great battlewagon. My best friend, Pete Cliburn, and I would climb from top to bottom of the "Mighty T," firing every gun and squeezing down every open hatch along the way. We explored the many decks and climbed the ladders of the upper decks as high as we could go. When you reached the top of the ladder of the highest point, you better remember that the metal deck you were about to lay your forearms on was as hot as a cast iron skillet! But, as kids we couldn't care less, we were fighting on the greatest battleship to have ever sailed.

As I got older I learned more about the amazing legacy of BB 35. The USS Texas is the last survivor of the great Dreadnought Battleships. She participated in the most important battles of the first half of the Twentieth

Century, including both World Wars. She was launched 100 years ago this year and commissioned on March 12, 1914. She was the most powerful warship that the world had seen, and she participated in the invasion of North Africa, Normandy, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. Her most notable contributions came in WW II, firing at Nazi defenses during the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Called the "smartest man o'war afloat," the Texas was an integral part of many US victories. As the flagship of the US fleet on D-Day, the Texas was the first of her kind to mount anti-aircraft guns and the first US battleship to launch an aircraft. At the end of the War, she made three trips, bringing American servicemen home.

On the anniversary of San Jacinto Day, April 21, 1948, the Texas was decommissioned. Her place in history took root right here in our backyard. School children across Texas saved their nickels to help pay to dry dock the Battleship at the site of the Battle-grounds on the San Jacinto River. As a kid, it was obvious to me why General Sam routed Santa Anna—we had a Battleship! After all she was retired on San Jacinto Day. It took me awhile to figure out that the Texas Revolution was in the 1800s, and the Battleship Texas was used in the 1900s. While that all made perfectly good sense to me back then, my love for Texas history in the years to come taught me that they were not the same war and General Sam's accomplishments became far more impressive.

During my tenure as a judge, the "Mighty T" found its way back into my life and into the lives of offenders that I ordered to be "enlisted" in the "Texas Navy." I ordered probationers who were skilled welders, painters, plumbers and electricians to help in the restoration efforts of the Battleship. As one of many creative sentences, this became another effective tool that both served the public and the probationer—a few even went on to be hired by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The probationers became a part of the history of the great ship. After being dry docked in Galveston in the 80's, many much needed repairs were made by different organizations and thousands of volunteers. The Battleship is now moored in its present location.

During my first term in Congress, I joined efforts with Congressman GENE GREEN in securing federal funding to permanently dry dock and display the USS Texas so that my grandchildren and generations to come could climb all over one of the world's finest fighting vessels. My DC staff visits the ship, usually in August, and I act as the Texas historian, along with help from the real experts, the Battleship staff from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Today, the Battleship Texas serves as a museum and a reminder of wars long past. In 1948, she was designated a National Historic Landmark. Today, the Texas has an onboard museum that details her efforts in our fight for freedom and a history of the sailors that called her their own.

But, all is not well with the Texas. What her enemies in battle could not do to her, nature has. She is old and is taking on water. She is covered with rubber patches and aluminum plates, and about one thousand gallons of water pour through her body every day. Last week, visitors were turned away from this Na-

tional Historic Landmark. The grand lady of the seas is closed until further notice. Visitors have been told the ship is closed while workers battle her leaks. Her recovery could cost an estimated 50 million dollars. In a 2007 bond election, voters approved \$25 million for her repair. This isn't enough. And, as much as it will help, the money won't be released until September. Texas is not just a National Historic Landmark, she is a state treasure to Texans and a monument to American sailors who first sailed her 100 years ago. The Texas needs volunteers and money to honor the ship and all who sailed her. Time is not on the side of the ship. Texans must save the ship now.

Otherwise, as we approach the sweltering heat of the "season" of August, we may see the beginning of the permanent demise of the USS Battleship Texas. Texans cannot allow the great Texas to sink from neglect and disappear beneath the water of history. And that's just the way it is.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. ROBERT JOHN "BOB" MESLER, AS PRINTED IN THE MIDLAND DAILY NEWS ON JUNE 21, 2012

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 9, 2012

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, Robert John "Bob" Mesler, Jr., 87, longtime Midland resident, World War II veteran and retired Manager of Emergency Response for The Dow Chemical Company, passed away Wednesday, June 20, 2012, after a lengthy illness. Bob was born on January 4, 1925, in Cass City, Michigan, to Robert John Mesler, Sr. and Ethelyn Louise (Smith) Mesler. The Meslers moved to Midland from Saginaw in 1941. Bob was a January, 1943 graduate of Midland High School, where he played football and ran track. He began his career at The Dow Chemical Company immediately after graduation. Less than six months later, Bob was drafted into the U.S. Army, and after basic training, was assigned to the Army Specialized Training Program at Hendrix College, Arkansas.

Bob married his high school sweetheart Margery Keicher on August 16, 1944, a month before shipping out to England, then to Belgium where he served in the U.S. infantry. During the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945, Sergeant Mesler was taken prisoner, escaping his captors at the end of April 1945, a few weeks before V-E Day. He was initially reported missing, and it wasn't until he had escaped that his family learned he'd actually been a POW.

"At the present, we live for the future, but we will long remember the past," he wrote home in an April 8, 1945 letter to his bride that vividly described his capture and treatment at the hands of his German captors, long marches and strafing by friendly fire. He was serious about remembering the past. Whatever it cost him in painful memory, he talked about those wartime experiences with generations of inquiring middle and high school students, as well as with those now-grown children of his fellow World War II veterans who perhaps hadn't shared their stories as can-

didly. Though he rarely claimed the distinction, Bob was proud to have served as a member of "The Greatest Generation." With Marge by his side, he revisited the Ardennes battlefield in 1989, where he was impressed by a local memorial to his fallen comrades. "It kind of finished off some unfinished business I had," he said upon returning home. Fifteen years later, Bob and fellow Midland veterans Max Bottomley and Bill Kennett—father of Midland Daily News reporter John Kennett—joined their fellow honorees in Washington, D.C. at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial.

With his war service completed, Bob attended Central Michigan University, graduating in 1949, with a B.S. in Biology. He resumed his career at The Dow Chemical Company, capping his 40-year career there by retiring as Manager of Emergency Response. Always active in his church and community, Bob's civic efforts included two terms on Midland's Parks and Recreation Commission, the presidency of the Jaycees, and being district manager for then-Congressman William Schuette. A talented craftsman, Bob also worked on the crew that restored the Midland County Courthouse. Until recently, Bob was the Buildings and Grounds committee chair for St. John's Episcopal Church in Midland, where he had previously served terms on the church vestry as both the senior and junior warden, as well as being a Sunday School teacher and youth leader.

An avid sports booster, Bob coached and refereed Little League baseball as well as coaching Pee Wee Football. Bob and Marge raised two sons; Jeff (Sheila) Mesler and Greg Mesler, both of whom survive him, as does Jeff and Sheila's son Kyle Robert Mesler. Bob's brother Garry (Jean) Mesler also survives him, along with nieces and nephews Kim, Liz, Kevin, Patti, Jim, Ethelyn, Mike, Lyn, John, Janette, Sherry, Mary and Bill.

Bob was "stand-in grandfather" to Anna, Maria, Cate and Matt. His extended family, the "Gang," includes Niki (Don) Beckwith, Max and Martha Bottomley, Gloria and Pete Lehman, Bill and Bonnie Kennett, Grace and Mike Merrell, Janet (Larry) Lang, Helen (Bob) Ward and Caroline (Al) Gunkler. Bob was preceded in death by his parents; and two brothers, James Russell Mesler and James Richard Mesler.

Memorial Services will take place at 11 a.m., Monday, June 25, 2012, from St. John's Episcopal Church, The Rev. Rob Skirving and The Rev. Mike Wilson will officiate, with inurnment to take place in the church mausoleum. Bob's family will receive friends at the Ware-Smith-Woolever Funeral Home, 1200 West Wheeler Street on Sunday from 2–4 and 6–8 p.m. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider the Toni and Trish House or Shelterhouse. Full military honors will be presented by the Midland Area Veterans and the Department of the U.S. Army.

The family would like to give special thanks to Bob's Midland doctors, to Dr. Washer of the University of Michigan, and especially Dr. Hafez of the University of Michigan, for all the special care they gave Bob. Thanks also to the staff of MidMichigan Home Care (Hospice) and Bob's special nurse Raime.