



February 10, 2011

Senate Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of Australia's wind industry. Having worked in the power sector for the past 20 years, I have a deep understanding of the positive impact we are making by supporting renewables in this country. And as the sales manager of American Superconductor (AMSC) in Australia, I have seen how AMSC can build an industry – and with that numerous new jobs – in regions that are supportive of wind-generated power. In fact, AMSC has grown its business in Australia steadily over the past five years and recently opened its first office in the country. This operation is focused primarily on selling solutions that help to connect wind and solar farms to the grid.

However, our company designs wind turbines from the ground up and licenses these designs to 12 wind turbine manufacturers around the world. Through our business model, we have created over 250 new jobs at our own company, 5,000 direct jobs through our partners and approximately 50,000 new jobs through our customers' supply chain around the world.

AMSC is uniquely positioned to drive similar growth in Australia by bringing a new wind turbine manufacturer into the country. This company would create hundreds of new green collar jobs and also would require a host of partners who could supply towers, blades and other critical components.

Australia has one of the more robust wind power industries in the world and it is on track for continued growth. But without the support of the government, this will not be possible and Australia will lose a valuable opportunity to grow a domestic industry, create jobs, and facilitate a path towards energy independence. We at AMSC encourage you to continue supporting this sector sake of our company, our employees and our country.

I am happy to discuss further.

Regards,

John Wright-Smith
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