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Renewable Northwest Project

OREGON WIND FARMS: \$54 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAXES

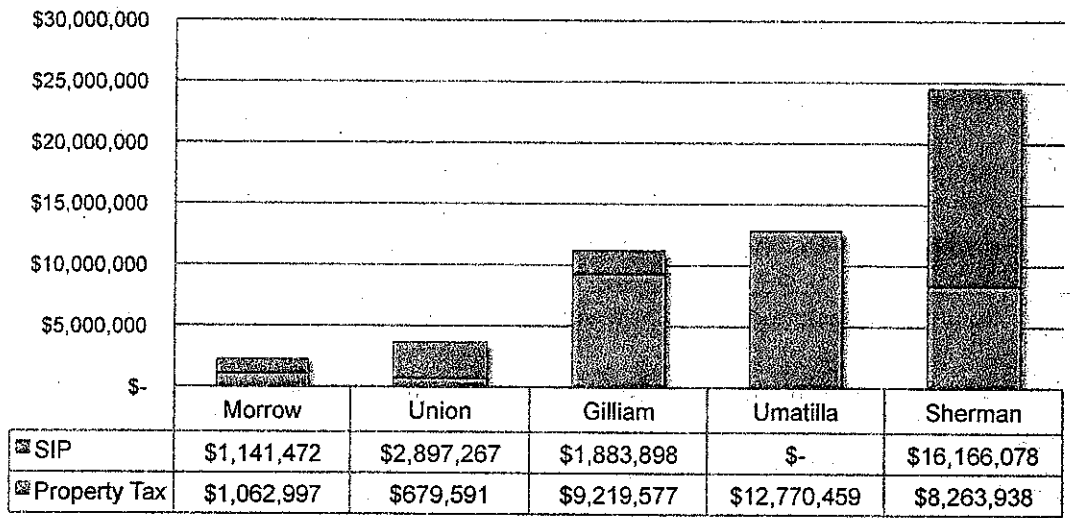
To date wind farms across Oregon have contributed over \$54 million in property tax payments benefiting coffers in both the counties in which they operate and the state (see graph 1).¹ Renewable energy projects are not only providing clean energy that protects our environment, their tax payments have become important sources of revenue. Tax districts such as public schools, fire services, rural hospitals, waste water treatment and roads and maintenance departments are receiving support from wind farm property tax payments. Additionally, the increased revenue offsets can lower the assessed tax rate (per \$1,000 vaule) for residents and businesses in the community.

Strategic Investment Program payments are negotiated on a county basis allowing funding to be directed to the specific needs of each county. Sherman County has used wind development generate revenue for capital projects like construction of new public buildings, including a school, a library and new city halls in Moro and Grass Valley.ⁱⁱ The renewable energy technology program at Columbia Gorge Community College has received SIP money and is training local residents to meet the growing the regional demand for employees in renewable energy fields.

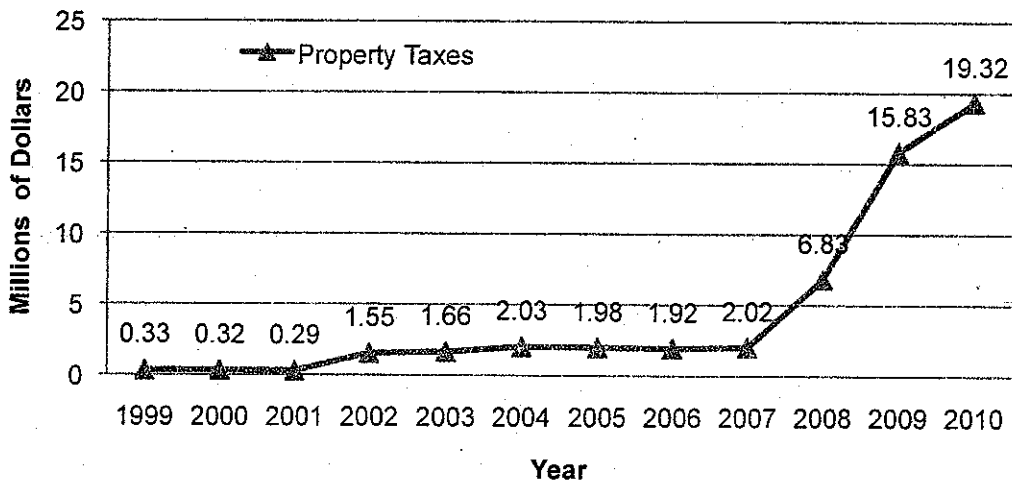
Property tax payments by renewable energy projects are building more resilient local and state economies, and have helped rural Oregon Counties weather the economic down turn.

MEASURE: HB 3580
 EXHIBIT: G
 Joint Committee on Tax Credits 76th Session
 DATE: 5/26/11 PAGES: 2
 SUBMITTED BY: MARCEL HOFFMAN

Wind Farm Property Tax Payments by County 1999-2010
(in 2010\$)



Wind Farm Property Tax Payments by Year



ⁱ Sherman, Gilliam, Umatilla, Union and Morrow County Assessors and Treasures for Property Taxes and Strategic Investment Program payments for 1999 to 2010. Adjusted to 2010\$ using CPI index at: <http://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

ⁱⁱ van der Voo, LEE (2011, February 17) Wind Energy a \$17 Million Boon for Sherman County. *Sustainable Business Oregon*. Retrieved April 11, 2011 from: www.sustainablebusinessoregon.com/articles/2011/02/wind-energy-a-17m-boon-for-sherman.html