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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Moving Toward a Greener Economy

George F. Will's June 25 op-ed column, "Tilting at Green Windmills," highlighted a study about wind energy and jobs and in the process perpetuated the urban myth that renewable energy destroys jobs. In fact, the study, done in Spain, has been widely discredited. As the Wall Street Journal's energy blog concluded several weeks ago, "The study doesn't actually identify those jobs allegedly destroyed by renewable-energy spending."

Spain's Labor Ministry has found that, contrary to the study by economics professor Gabriel Calzada, renewable-energy industries have created 175,000 jobs; the European Commission found that an aggressive renewable-energy policy would create a net increase of more than 400,000 jobs in the European Union by 2020, giving "a significant boost to the econ-

omy and the number of jobs in the E.U."

For the United States, the key question is whether increased emphasis on renewable energy will create jobs here at home. The clear answer is yes.

The wind energy industry now employs 85,000 Americans and created 35,000 jobs in 2008 alone, many of them manufacturing jobs in the hard-pressed industrial Midwest. We expect that number will climb once Congress passes a strong national renewable-electricity standard.

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