This paper examines the economic development potential associated with the expansion of wind energy in the United States. The economic benefits are focused in three primary areas: job creation, property taxes, and land lease payments to landowners. The availability of a skilled workforce is the most important factor in job creation associated with wind energy in both the construction and operation phases. Domestic turbine manufacturing represents the largest factor in the size of economic benefits within a locality. Those states with the largest amount of installed wind capacity generally have more incentive programs available to developers to offset the large construction costs of wind energy. The United States seeks to combat climate change and reduce dependence on foreign oil by incorporating renewable energy sources into the national energy supply. For wind energy to become a central part of the United States energy supply, both federal and state governments must continue to set guidelines and fund incentive programs to encourage private developers to invest in wind projects.