

## **Mike Pompeo: The Congressman from Koch?**

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We believe Rep. Mike Pompeo when he says he does not oppose the wind production tax credit out of favoritism for oil and natural gas producers.

In a column on the Wichita Eagle op-ed page Sunday, Pompeo used the layoffs at the Siemens wind turbine nacelle plant in Hutchinson to make his point that tax breaks do not often bring long-lasting jobs.

What Pompeo did not address was the assertion by Siemens and other wind-turbine manufacturers that it is the uncertainty about extension of the federal wind-production tax credit that is hurting their industry.

Pompeo personifies that uncertainty. He has made it plain he will vote to end the credit.

We have to wonder, when a spokeswoman for Charles Koch says he, like Pompeo, opposes all taxpayer subsidies for the energy industry — even though Koch Industries takes some of those subsidies— whether Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Koch are not more than lunch companions at the libertarian Cato Institute.

Koch, after all, deals in oil and gas, not in wind energy, at least not much.

Mike Pompeo is too smart and too independent a thinker simply to be mouthing what Charles and David Koch, whose minions and dollars helped him get elected, tell him. His tune and their tunes, however, strike all too similar notes.

It would be wise of Mike Pompeo to find another song to sing.