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geoAMPS CEO answers 'The Big Question'

Posted by Dan Liggett on July 11, 2013 at 1:35pm

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Do domestic content rules help or hurt renewables? That was "The Big Question" in the July/August 2013 edition of Renewable Energy World Magazine. The magazine asked industry executives to share their thoughts on this controversial question. A response by Yogesh Khandelwal, President of Chief Executive Officer of geoAMPS, was one of only four that the magazine editors accepted for publication.

In recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been called upon to investigate cases of domestic content rules in renewable energy policy. In a recent highly publicized case, the Canadian province of Ontario was accused of violating global trade laws by requiring renewable energy developers to purchase a designated amount of locally sourced materials for projects as part of the province's feed-in tariff (FIT) program.

In December 2012, the WTO found these practices illegal and upheld that ruling on appeal.

Rules similar to Ontario's FIT program, however, have been implemented in many countries as a way to provide incentive to more development of renewable energy projects.

In his response, Yogesh writes that the renewable energy industry is both global and local in nature. The economic development potential is of major concern for local communities, while the global community is focused on economic development as well as reducing carbon emissions that are blamed for climate change.

"To advance the global goal of advancing renewable energy, local needs and concerns must be respected," Yogesh writes.

He points to the enormous local economic development potential from Ontario's planned renewable energy program.

"Ultimately, it will be local communities, not international intervention, that drive the transition from reliance on fossil fuels to utilization of renewable sources to meet the increasing need for energy on a global scale," Yogesh writes. "Local benefits, such as those projected for Ontario, are real incentives to advancing renewable energy, while the WTO's ruling is restrictive."

Dan Liggett is Communications and Public Relations Manager for geoAMPS, a technology company in the Columbus, OH, area that specializes in software solutions to manage land rights and infrastructure assets. For more information, visit www.geoamps.com, call 614-389-4871 or reach out to geoAMPS through its social media channels.

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