

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 5, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We write to express our concerns with the new direction and the initiatives contemplated for the Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) in your memo dated March 16, 2012.

In your memo, you state an intention to direct the PMAs to act in areas involving transmission expansion, renewable energy, energy efficiency, cyber security and electric vehicles in order to ensure a modern, secure and reliable electric transmission grid. While these are important public policy goals, we are concerned that these new initiatives have been put forward without sufficient evaluation of potential impacts to the customers of the clean, reliable electricity marketed by the PMAs. We have heard from numerous public power utilities, rural electric cooperatives and local officials in our states who are troubled by the potential cost impacts of these directives and by a perceived expansion of the role of the PMAs beyond their current statutory authority. These proposals also constitute a fundamental shift away from regional planning, and the understanding of local needs and impacts which comes with it, towards a Washington, D.C.-based, top-down approach. We are also concerned that the Department of Energy appears to be sidestepping the role of Congress in debating and overseeing policies relating to the PMAs.

The PMAs have responsibly marketed federally generated hydropower for decades to approximately 1,100 electric utilities in 34 states, providing this clean electricity to more than 40 million Americans. They have also built and maintained thousands of miles of high voltage transmission systems to deliver this power. Through a partnership with their customers, the PMAs repay the federal investment in these systems with interest annually. This public-private partnership between the PMAs and their customers is a model that works extraordinarily well, not only for our constituents, but for the U.S. taxpayer. Changes to this model should not be made without due consideration of the concerns of impacted stakeholders.

The federal power program is integral to keeping electricity rates affordable and reliable for the customers of community-owned and consumer-owned utilities across the states we represent. We strongly urge you to pursue meaningful collaboration with stakeholders, including ratepayers and Congress, prior to moving forward with these new initiatives.

Sincerely,



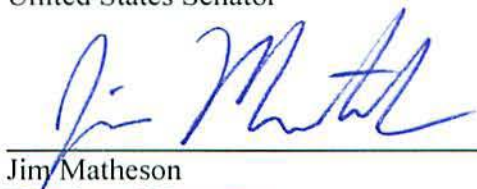
Tim Johnson  
United States Senator



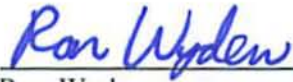
Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



Paul Gosar  
Member of Congress



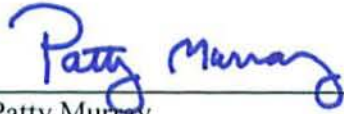
Jim Matheson  
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Michael Enzi  
United States Senator



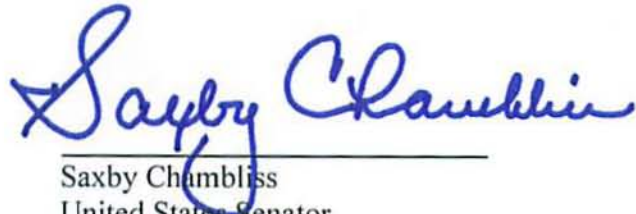
Tom Harkin  
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander  
United States Senator



John Boozman  
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss  
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson  
United States Senator



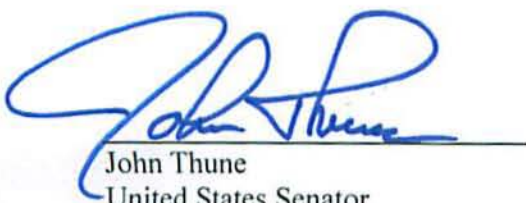
Charles Grassley  
United States Senator



Pat Roberts  
United States Senator



Kent Conrad  
United States Senator



John Thune  
United States Senator



John Barrasso  
United States Senator





John Hoeven  
United States Senator



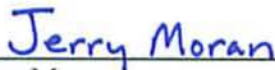
Mark Pryor  
United States Senator



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Dean Heller  
United States Senator



Jerry Moran  
United States Senator



Tom Udall  
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions  
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Amy Klobuchar  
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John McCain  
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Thad Cochran  
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Mike Johanns  
United States Senator



Ben Nelson  
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham  
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Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



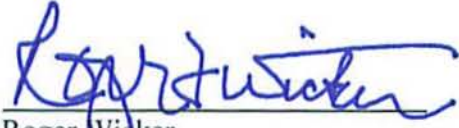
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Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



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Mike Lee  
United States Senator



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Roger Wicker  
United States Senator



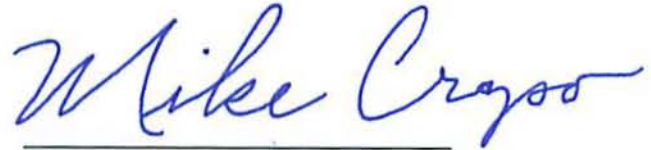
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Jon Kyl  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator



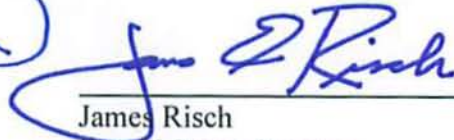
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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



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Claire McCaskill  
United States Senator



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James Risch  
United States Senator



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Mark Begich  
United States Senator



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Jim Webb  
United States Senator



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis  
Member of Congress



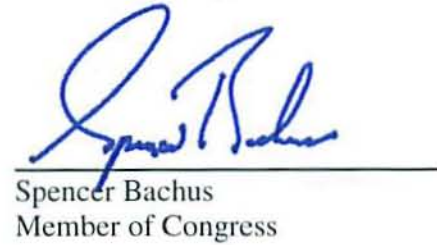
Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Walter Jones  
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Jo Bonner  
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Spencer Bachus  
Member of Congress



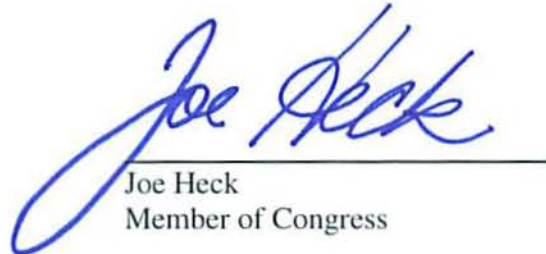
Dan Lungren  
Member of Congress



Michael Honda  
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland  
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Joe Heck  
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Phil Roe  
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Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

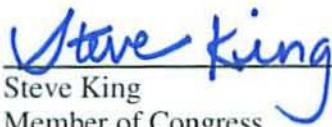


Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman  
Member of Congress

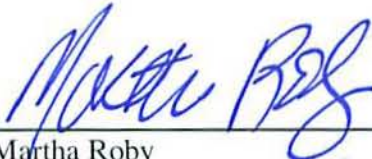




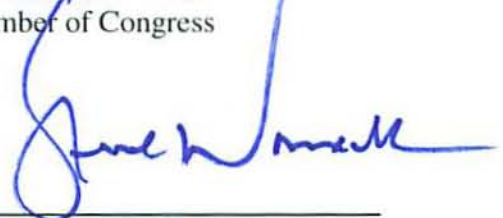
Steve King  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
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Martha Roby  
Member of Congress



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress



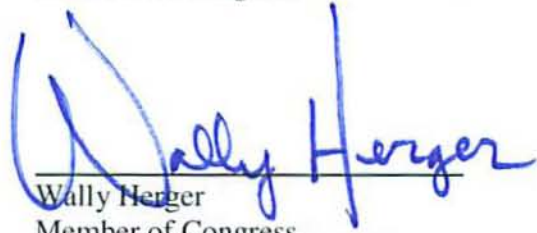
Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



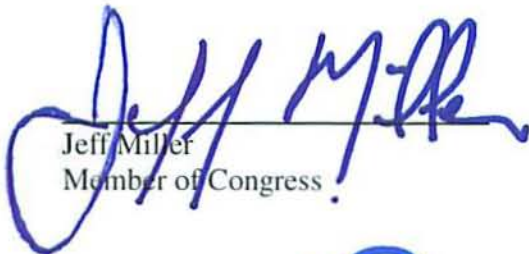
David Schweikert  
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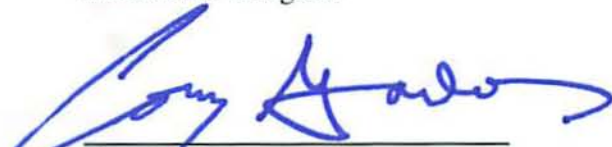
  
Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

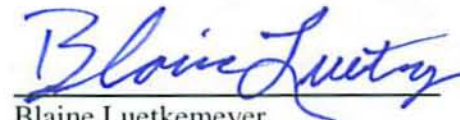
  
Timothy W. Johnson  
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Marsha Blackburn  
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Rick Crawford  
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Cory Gardner  
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Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress





John Barrow  
Member of Congress



Tom Latham  
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Michelle Bachmann  
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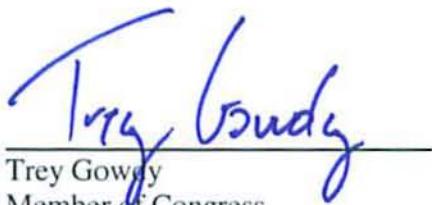
Gregg Harper  
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Larry Kissell  
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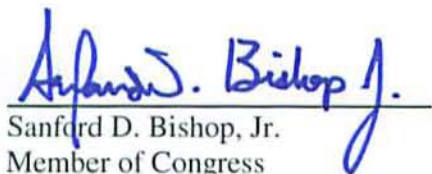
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Trey Gowdy  
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Tim Walz  
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
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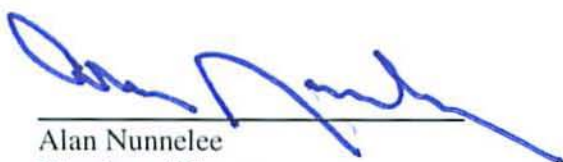
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Mike McIntyre  
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Chuck Fleischmann  
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Renee Ellmers  
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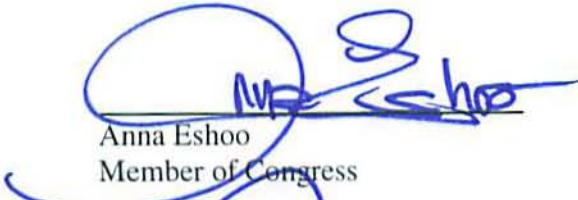
  
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Tim Griffin  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Jeff Fortenberry  
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Doris Matsui  
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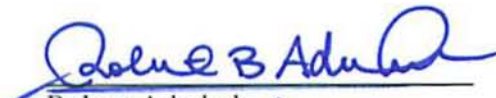
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Scott Tipton  
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Robert Goodlatte  
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Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress





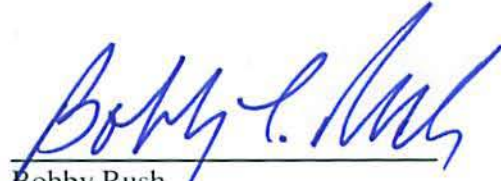
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Peter Welch  
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Member of Congress



Bobby Rush  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz  
Member of Congress



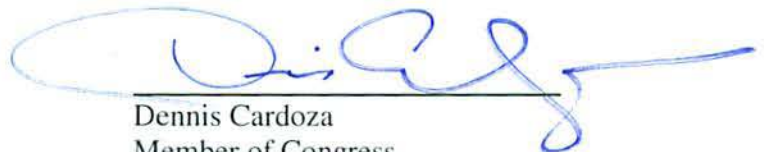
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Donna Christensen  
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



Dennis Cardoza  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Lee Terry  
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis  
Danny Davis  
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Steve Stivers  
Steve Stivers  
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Lois Capps  
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress

Karen Bass  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

Edolphus Towns  
Edolphus Towns  
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver  
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

Alcee Hastings  
Alcee Hastings  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Diane Black  
Member of Congress

G.K. Butterfield  
G.K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress

Cedric Richmond  
Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress

Pete Stark  
Pete Stark  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

David Price  
David Price  
Member of Congress

Denny Rehberg  
Denny Rehberg  
Member of Congress

Raul Labrador  
Raul Labrador  
Member of Congress





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James Clyburn  
Member of Congress



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Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



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Ed Whitfield  
Member of Congress



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Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress




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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



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Todd Akin  
Member of Congress



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Steven Palazzo  
Member of Congress



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Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress