

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.

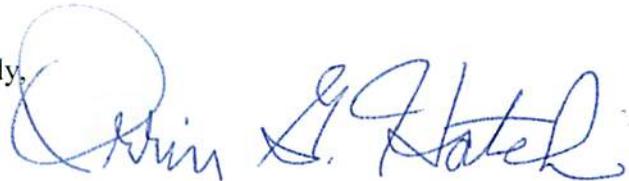
The PMAs have responsibly marketed federally generated hydropower for decades to approximately 1,100 electric utilities in 34 states, providing this clean electricity to more than 40 million Americans. They have also built and maintained thousands of miles of high voltage transmission systems to deliver 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,



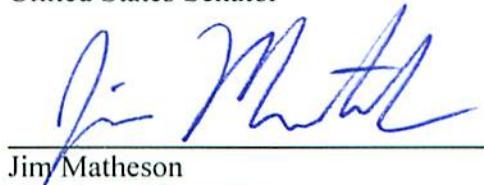
Tim Johnson
United States Senator



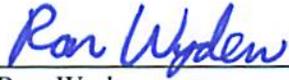
Orrin Hatch
United States Senator



Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



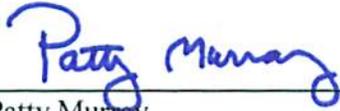
Jim Matheson
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Michael Enzi
United States Senator



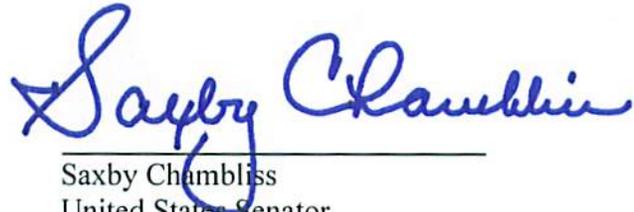
Tom Harkin
United States Senator



Lamar Alexander
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



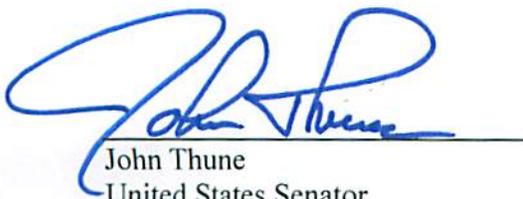
Charles Grassley
United States Senator



Pat Roberts
United States Senator



Kent Conrad
United States Senator



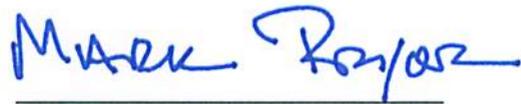
John Thune
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



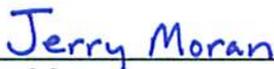
Mark Pryor
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Dean Heller
United States Senator



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jeff Sessions
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



John McCain
United States Senator



Thad Cochran
United States Senator



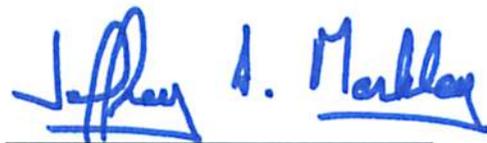
Mike Johanns
United States Senator



Ben Nelson
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



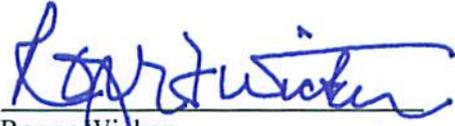
Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



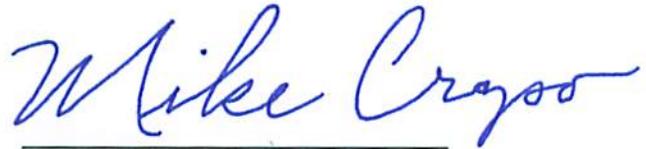
Roger Wicker
United States Senator



Jon Kyl
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



James Risch
United States Senator



Mark Begich
United States Senator



Jim Webb
United States Senator



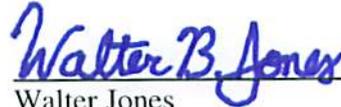
Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



Cynthia Lummis
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Jo Bonner
Member of Congress



Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



Dan Lungren
Member of Congress



Michael Honda
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



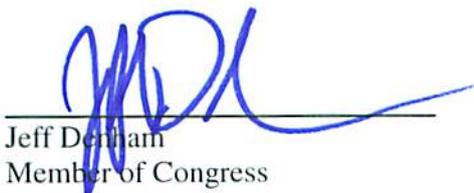
Joe Heck
Member of Congress



Phil Roe
Member of Congress



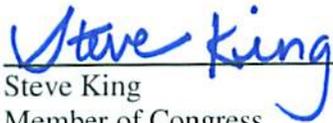
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



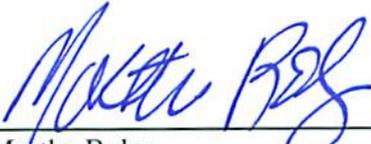
Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



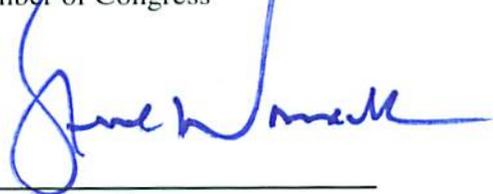
Steve King
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Martha Roby
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



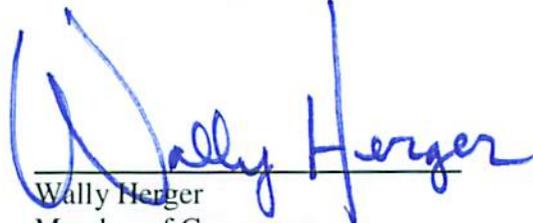
Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



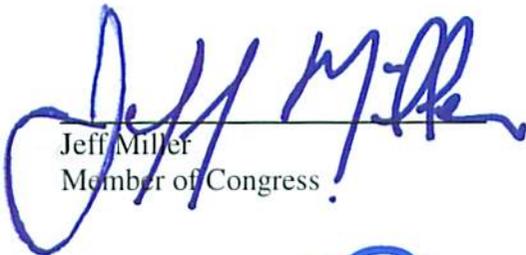
David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



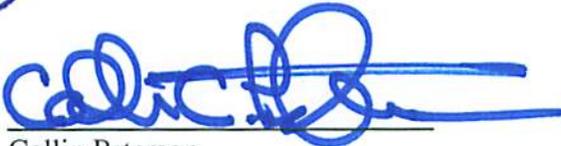
Wally Herger
Member of Congress



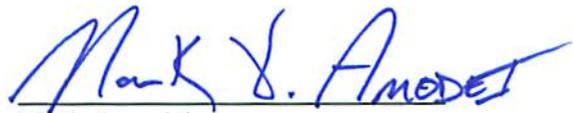
Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



Steve Southerland
Member of Congress



Collin Peterson
Member of Congress



Mark Amodei
Member of Congress



Kristi Noem
Member of Congress

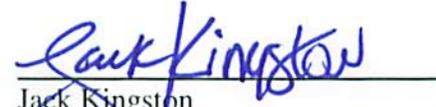


Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

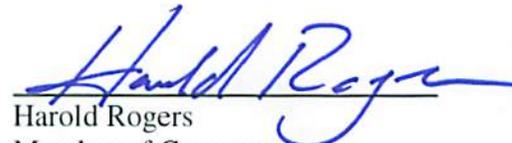

Ben Quayle
Member of Congress


Jeff Flake
Member of Congress


Paul Broun
Member of Congress

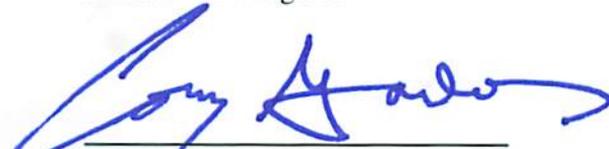

Jack Kingston
Member of Congress

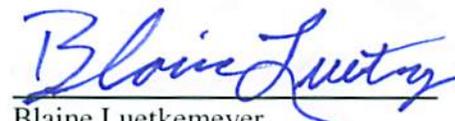

Timothy W. Johnson
Member of Congress


Harold Rogers
Member of Congress


Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress


Cory Gardner
Member of Congress


Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

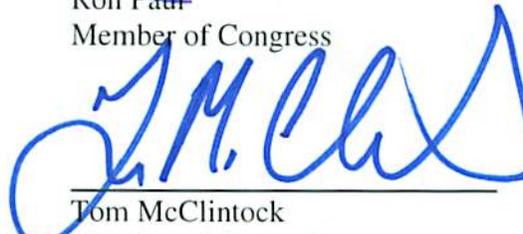

Howard Coble
Member of Congress


Dan Boren
Member of Congress


James Lankford
Member of Congress


Ron Paul
Member of Congress


Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress

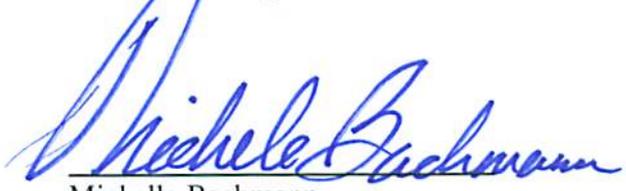

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



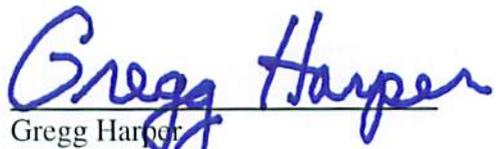
John Barrow
Member of Congress



Tom Latham
Member of Congress



Michelle Bachmann
Member of Congress



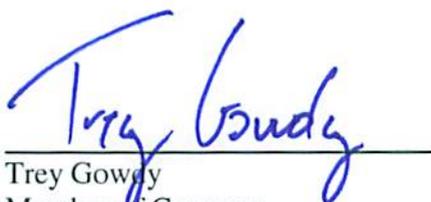
Gregg Harper
Member of Congress



Larry Kissell
Member of Congress



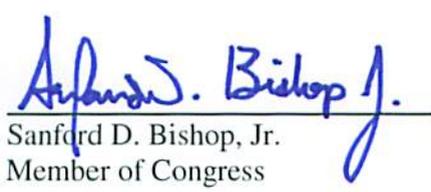
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



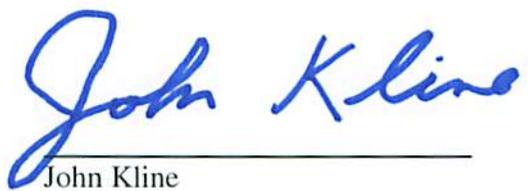
Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress



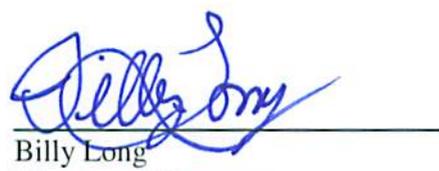
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



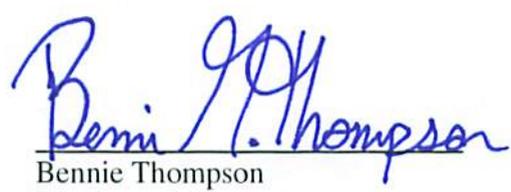
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



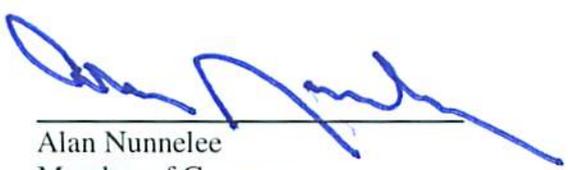
John Kline
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress



Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress



Rick Berg
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



John Sullivan
Member of Congress



Tim Scott
Member of Congress



Stephen Fincher
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks
Member of Congress



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress



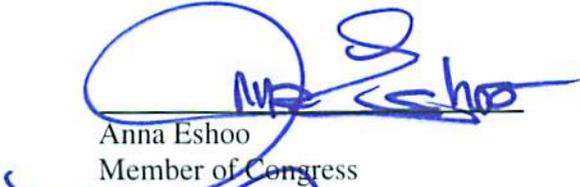
Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Anna Eshoo
Member of Congress



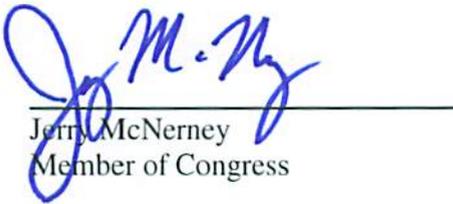
Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



Robert Hurt
Member of Congress



Tim Griffin
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Ben Chandler
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Frank Lucas
Member of Congress



Scott Tipton
Member of Congress



Robert Goodlatte
Member of Congress



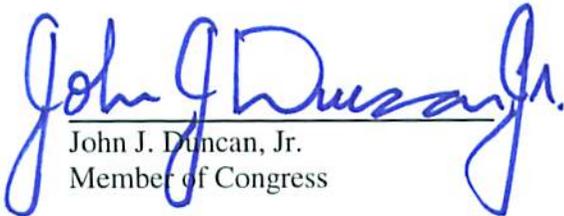
Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



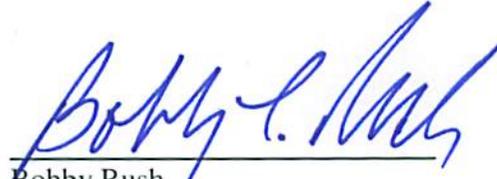
Tim Holden
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



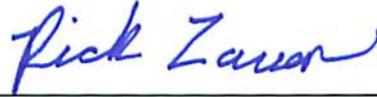
John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress



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



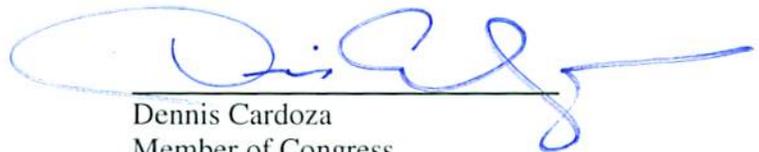
Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress



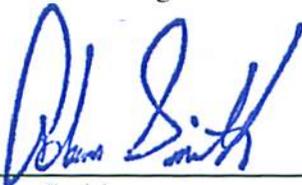
Donna Christensen
Member of Congress



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
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

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


James Clyburn
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress


Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress


Sam Graves
Member of Congress


Todd Akin
Member of Congress


Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress


Mike Simpson
Member of Congress