Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 28, 2005

Mr. Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
905 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232-4170

Dear Steve:

We are writing to you once again because of our continued serious concerns about the Grid West proposal as you approach your decision about the appropriate course of action for the region, including whether to proceed simultaneously with the initial stages of implementation of Grid West and a so-called "convergence" proposal based on concepts developed by the Transmission Improvements Group (TIG).

We are concerned that the convergence proposal as it currently stands would leave the Grid West structure in place, with essentially the same membership structure, voting rights, goal and timeline to propose a regional FERC-jurisdictional entity. We believe the seating of the Grid West developmental board and its associated significant funding commitment would be an overwhelming incentive to make Grid West operational at Decision Point 4 – regardless of how successful the TIG aspects of convergence are in the interim.

Moreover, new concerns and questions about the need for, and character of, a regional transmission entity are raised by the new federal energy legislation, particularly with respect to FERC's recently initiated rulemaking on transmission policy and its new reliability authority.

Given all the policy concerns, the continued regional discord, and the fluid legal and regulatory transmission framework, we believe it would be prudent for BPA to suspend action at this time and to revisit the basic policy objectives and transmission needs of the region. These new circumstances afford an opportunity to consider solutions that would garner broad regional support and maintain a greater level of regional control.

We know that you are aware of the unique and longstanding tradition in the Pacific Northwest of regional consensus on energy matters. At this time it is abundantly clear to us that such consensus does not yet exist and we see no need to impose a decision on the region that is based on an artificial timetable if there is a genuine chance to achieve such a consensus. In this regard, we remain hopeful that we can find a more acceptable and mutually-agreeable means of

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addressing our future electricity transmission needs, and we remain committed to this effort. Therefore we would respectfully urge you to withhold action on the appointment of a developmental board for the purposes of negotiating an agreement between current transmission owners in the region and the Grid West entity. We believe that it is important to allow the region more time to work together to forge a consensus proposal.

Sincerely,

PATTY MURRAY
United States Senator

MARIA CANTWELL
United States Senator

NORM DICKS
Member of Congress

JIM McDERMOTT
Member of Congress

ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress

JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress

BRIAN BAIRD
Member of Congress

RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress

DOC HASTINGS
Member of Congress