

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 5, 2005

Mr. Stephen J. Wright  
Administrator  
Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)  
905 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Steve:

As you consider how to address BPA's long-term transmission challenges, we write to urge you not to pursue a proposal that lacks broad stakeholder consensus or results in less regional accountability. We support your decision not to move forward to Decision Point 2 at this time. We commend your efforts to forge a compromise that does not alienate a large block of transmission users and encourage you to continue working intensively with all stakeholders to find the best solution for the consumers within Bonneville's service territory.

We remain deeply skeptical of the need for expanded federal authority in the Pacific Northwest energy market by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Recent history has demonstrated that FERC's interests do not always align with the region's consumers. We are concerned that formation of an entity that expands the reach of FERC in our region could transfer critical decision-making authority out of the Northwest, expose the region to unnecessary risks and costs, and fundamentally change the nature of our regional electrical system.

It has been made clear to us that a number of industry stakeholders – the majority of public power entities in the Northwest as well as a number of significant industrial power users – are not convinced that the current protections against unwarranted FERC influence through the implementation of Grid West are adequate. BPA should not turn control of its transmission system over to a FERC-jurisdictional entity when so many of the historic regional stakeholders involved in the development and funding of the BPA transmission system have such strong objections.

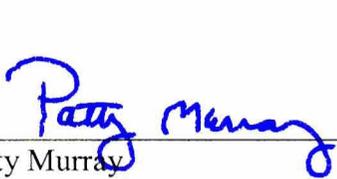
At the same time, it is clear to us that the region must take meaningful and significant steps to improve the transmission grid. We need to ensure that we maintain high reliability and that new generation can be easily integrated into the regional grid. We applaud BPA's efforts to further the development of effective mechanisms to advance the reliability of the region's transmission grid, prompt new investment in needed infrastructure, and promote the efficient use of the system. We share these objectives and commend all of the stakeholders for their diligent efforts thus far.

We are pleased to see broad stakeholder consensus emerge on some of the problems that need to be addressed in the near-term. We think it makes sense to move ahead with common agreed-upon items that characterize the Grid West proposal and the Transmission Improvements Group (TIG) proposal. These include the funding of a market monitor, the formation of a common OASIS (Open Access Same time Information System), coordinated regional transmission planning, and flow-based Available Transmission Capacity (ATC).

Not only do these items show great promise in terms of benefits for the region, but the cost to implement them is relatively low, well understood, and a sound investment. Given the fact that overall wholesale rates for delivered power in the Northwest are still much higher than we would prefer, it is prudent to move forward incrementally with the concepts that show the greatest benefit to the region for the lowest cost.

Finally, we are deeply disappointed that this issue appears in danger of fracturing regional unity. As you know, our region has long recognized the importance of stakeholder consensus and coordination to protect the value of our power resources from outside interests and to ensure that the benefits of our unique electric system are spread widely within the Northwest. We believe this is a legacy that should be built upon as we consider how best to address our region's future transmission needs.

Sincerely,



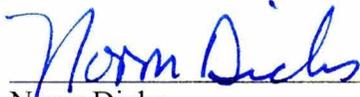
Patty Murray  
United States Senator



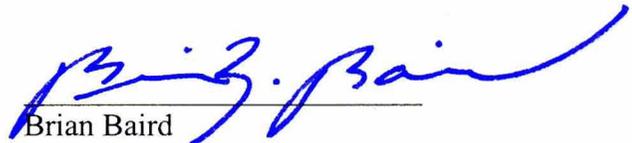
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress



Norm Dicks  
Member of Congress



Brian Baird  
Member of Congress



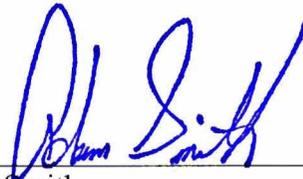
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress



Jay Inslee  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress