

Montana State Senate

LTS-063



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The Big Sky Country

SENATOR AUBYN CURTISS
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COMMITTEES:
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NATURAL RESOURCES
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October 31, 2005

Bonneville Power Administration
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To Whom It may Concern:

I regret not having been able to attend the public meetings relative to the Libby (FEC) to Troy Rebuild Project, so greatly appreciate the opportunity afforded me to meet with Project Manager Kirk Robinson. He very courteously answered questions and provided me with more information about the proposal and the planning.

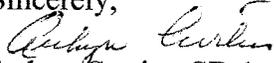
After due consideration and also hearing from constituents whose interests are involved in the ultimate siting location, I strongly support by-passing the residential areas in favor of re-routing the line on public land. That location would require dealing with far fewer entities for the purpose of acquiring easements, allay concerns of private property owners and probably prove more economically feasible.

I am aware that there may be some negative voices alleging impact on grizzly habitat, but to my knowledge there are no bears there, and if there were, they are entirely too close to school bus routes and children's habitat. As everyone knows the sheep enjoy the neighborhood and co-habit quite nicely.

I believe I speak for myself and many, many others. Both the re-build and upgrade are vitally necessary, not only in the interest of safety, but also to provide for the delivery of adequate energy, without which our county will ultimately stagnate.

Although the project seemingly got off to a rocky start because of misunderstanding, we appreciate your sensitivity and follow-up response to the concerns of our citizens, and look forward to having an energy supply which will enhance opportunities to attract additional economic development for our area.

Sincerely,


Aubyn Curtiss, SD 1