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August 8, 2012

The Honorable Joe Heck
U.S. House of Representatives
132 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
U.S. House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Gosar
U.S. House of Representatives
504 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Heck, Heinrich, Gosar and Thompson:

We are writing to express our support for the legislation you have introduced as HR 5991 and HR 6154. We appreciate your efforts to provide a bipartisan House companion to S. 1775, the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. Among other things, these bills would share royalties and lease revenues from solar and wind projects developed on federal lands with states and counties.

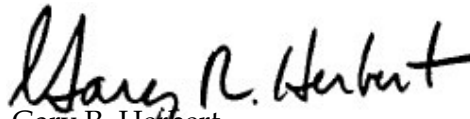
We support the development of a leasing system for renewable energy that returns a portion of royalty revenues to the states and counties because they incur additional staff time and capital costs from permitting and siting this type of development. Congress recognized this increased burden in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 [42 U.S.C. 15873 (a)], when it created a revenue sharing provision for geothermal energy generation on federal lands. As a result, state and local governments in affected areas have been able to deliver critical government services and make needed capital improvements to accommodate the development.

We also support the development of new renewable energy in areas that have the least impact on wildlife and other important land uses. We believe a portion of the royalties from renewable energy development should be shared with state agencies to support land, wildlife and water conservation in affected areas. The region's hunting heritage, outdoor recreation opportunities and tourism economies would benefit from this.

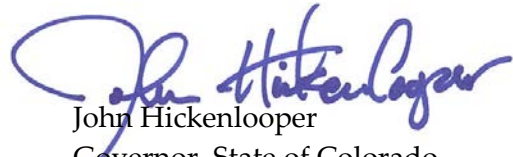
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Thank you for introducing this important legislation. We hope that these concepts are federally codified. Our states look forward to helping meet the energy needs of the United States while ensuring that our state and local citizens are equipped to do so most effectively, and our prized land, wildlife and water resources are sustained.

Sincerely,



Gary R. Herbert
Governor, State of Utah
Chairman, WGA



John Hickenlooper
Governor, State of Colorado
Vice Chairman, WGA