



WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION



Western
Municipal
Conference

April 11, 2007

Mike Duncan
Chairman
Republican National Committee
310 First Street, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Duncan:


We read with interest the recent Democratic National Committee (DNC) announcement that it will sanction six Democratic presidential candidate debates, one per month, starting in July 2007. We strongly encourage the Republican National Committee to convene similar debates or forums for Republican candidates. Furthermore, we encourage the RNC to convene at least two debates or forums in the Western U.S. and encourage at least one of those debates to focus on uniquely Western issues.

Our region is a growing and dynamic region. An additional 42 million people are expected to move to the West by 2030 – attracted by the vibrant economy, easy access to recreation and public lands and the overall lifestyle. The political leaders in the region are forging public policies on a variety of issues, such as clean energy, which serve as models for the rest of the country.

National issues, including the global war on terrorism and healthcare, are important to our constituents. Just as important are regional issues, such as immigration, public lands management, ranching, relations with tribal nations and water. We encourage all of the presidential candidates to visit the region over the next year and meet Western voters and discuss their issues. We look forward to seeing them at RNC sponsored debates in the West in the near future.

Sincerely,


M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota
Chairman, Western Governors' Association


Jeff Morris
State Representative
Washington House of Representatives
Chair, The Council of State Governments-WEST

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Cope". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Robert Cope
Commissioner, Lemhi County, Idaho
President, Western Interstate Region
National Association of Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Mamet". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Sam Mamet
Executive Director, Colorado Municipal League
Western Municipal Conference