



WESTERN  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION



Western  
Municipal  
Conference

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Howard Dean  
Chairman  
Democratic National Committee  
430 S. Capitol St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Governor Dean:

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 DNC to convene at least two of those debates in the Western U.S., one of which focuses on issues unique to the West.

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 DNC 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