



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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March 26, 2013

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

Dear Representative Gosar:

We are writing to express our support for sharing with states and counties renewable energy royalty revenues from federal lands. The language contained in the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act (HR 596) which you have introduced in the House would enact such revenue sharing.

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 governmental services and make needed capital improvements to accommodate the development.

Western Governors support continued and accelerated deployment of renewable energy projects, and associated clean energy job growth, in our states. In siting renewable energy projects and transmission lines, we encourage areas be developed which will have the least impact on wildlife and other important land uses. Shared royalties from renewable energy development can be used by state agencies to support land, wildlife, and water conservation in affected areas.

Thank you for introducing this important legislation. We hope 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

The Honorable Paul Gosar

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cc:     The Honorable Mike Thompson  
          The Honorable Joe Heck  
          The Honorable Jared Polis  
          The Honorable Scott Tipton  
          The Honorable Diana DeGette  
          The Honorable Mike Coffman  
          The Honorable Jim Costa  
          The Honorable Jeff Denham  
          The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
          The Honorable Mark Amodei  
          The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
          The Honorable Mike Simpson  
          The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan  
          The Honorable David Schweikert  
          The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick