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July 2, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Bennett, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Dorgan and Bennett:

As the Committee considers the fiscal year 2010 Energy-Water appropriations bill, the Western Governors' Association urges you to continue your past support for programs that are of great value to the citizens in the western states.

We are pleased that the Department of Energy received a significant funding boost as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). We applaud the Obama Administration and Congress for making this \$38 billion investment in clean and renewable energy, and in particular the \$11 billion investment in transmission expansion, smart grid and other electricity infrastructure enhancements. We encourage the Committee to build further on these good efforts.

Within the DOE budget, we support the \$2.3 billion that is proposed for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (solar energy at \$320 million, wind energy at \$75 million, bioenergy at \$235 million, and advanced vehicle technologies at \$334 million); the \$4.5 billion for the Office of Science; and the \$5.8 billion for environmental clean-up. We are also encouraged by the Obama

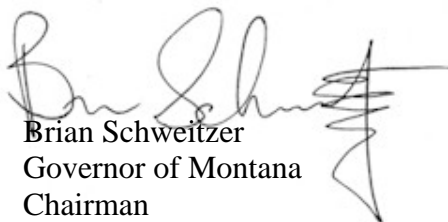
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Administration's plan to focus on clean coal projects and carbon capture and storage technology. We would like to request that Congress restore funding for the National Bioenergy Partnership, which serves as a vehicle for commercialization and as a critical linkage between state and federal agencies on issues relating to the development of bioenergy. The reauthorization language for the National Bioenergy Partnership was recently included in HR 2454, the American Energy and Security Act.


We also applaud the \$5.1 billion ARRA spending for the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program and \$1 billion for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. We also recognize the \$1.5 billion increase in the FY 2010 request for the Corps budget, which funds operation, maintenance and construction of important projects for flood management, navigation, levee protection, storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration and related efforts in the West and the Nation. With respect to funding for Reclamation, we understand that the \$27 million decrease in the FY 2010 spending request was more than offset by the ARRA spending. Nevertheless, we continue to call for greater access to funds accruing in the Reclamation Fund for authorized purposes. The estimated receipts for 2010 total over \$2 billion, while requested appropriations are only \$900 million.

In closing, we hope the Committee will continue to invest in these programs that provide so much benefit to the West.

Sincerely,



Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
Chairman



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