



# BLACKFEET NATION

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Willie A. Sharp, Jr., Chairman  
Peter "Rusty" Tatsey, Vice-Chairman  
T.J. Show, Secretary  
Ken Angare, Treasurer

## BLACKFEET TRIBAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

Willie A. Sharp, Jr.  
Peter "Rusty" Tatsey  
T. J. Show  
Reis Fisher  
Rodney "Fish" Gervais  
Henry Butterfly  
Roger Running Crane  
Paul McEvers  
Ronald H. "Smiley" Kittson

March 3, 2009

### *Via Fax & U.S. Mail*

Western Governors' Association  
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202  
Phone: (303) 623-9378  
Fax: (303) 534-7309

### **RE: Comments on Western Renewable Energy Zones Draft Documents and Maps**

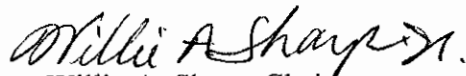
The Blackfeet Tribe submits these comments regarding the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ) draft documents and maps. While we support the overall efforts by the WGA to seek extending the power grid into geographically constrained areas in order to reach valuable renewable resources, we ask that tribal sovereign and energy resource interests be given thorough consideration throughout the WREZ multiphase development process.

As a sovereign, the Blackfeet Indian Reservation is made up of 1.5 million acres located in the northwestern part of Montana. We appear to be located within a designated Renewable Energy Zone. The Tribe is well situated and located in an area rich with renewable wind resources. Our tribal government is working carefully to balance our inherent governing responsibilities to our people and our lands with that of our resource development, economic and infrastructure needs. As such, we will carefully choose which lands are appropriate for development. We support your efforts to ensure our renewable energy resources are appropriately identified and ultimately considered in terms of plans for renewable energy integration the power grid. We encourage new transmission to be constructed so that our wind rich area may develop this resource and create important economic development efforts for our people.

Presently, many tribes across the nation are realizing benefits from federal policy support for increased tribal energy development. We would like to see this federal policy encouraging renewable energy development on Indian lands to be reflected in the Western Governor's reports by honoring the wishes of Indian Tribes. If tribal lands are chosen for development by the Indian Tribe, and the area does have a renewable resources, those areas should be included in Renewable Energy Zones.. Similar to other sovereigns the ability to govern our lands, resources, and the needs of our people is both inherent and paramount. For these reason we seek assurance that the Blackfeet Tribe is included in any policy decisions impacting the Renewable Energy Zone located in common with our tribal reservation lands and that our lands are indentified as a Renewable Energy Zone.

In closing, we thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continuing our shared efforts and our continued participation in this process. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (406)338-7522. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Willie A. Sharp". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Willie A. Sharp, Chairman  
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council