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April 29, 2003

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150


Dear Chairman Domenici:


On behalf of the Western Governors, we are writing to commend you for your effort to adopt a regional approach to electricity legislation. The evolution of discussions within the Committee represent a significant shift in policy direction, away from a top-down centralized model to a more regional model, which we believe would better fit the needs of the West.

Western Governors strongly support your proposed language on reliability standards and the decision not to preempt state authority over electric transmission line siting. We also believe the Committee is making significant progress toward protecting state authority over retail electricity decisions. As you prepare to bring your bill to the Senate floor, we would appreciate the opportunity to continue to work with you on these issues.

We appreciate your willingness to work with us on these very important issues. Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,


Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
Chair


Bill Richardson
Governor of New Mexico
Lead Governor for Energy

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