



**WESTERN  
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March 26, 2003

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

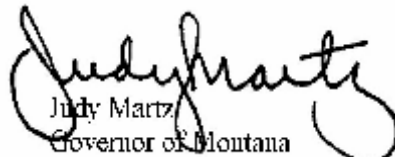
The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
364 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-6150


Dear Chairman Domenici and Senator Bingaman:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on electricity legislation pending before your Committee. As you know, over the last several years the Western Governors have been very active on energy issues, especially concerning electricity deregulation. The region is still recovering from the devastating effects of the 2000/2001 electricity crisis and we are working diligently to ensure that we do not have a repeat of that situation. As such, we appreciate your invitation to testify at the March 27<sup>th</sup> hearing. Unfortunately, due to our own States' legislative schedules, we are not able to travel to Washington to testify in person. We therefore submit the enclosed written testimony on behalf of the Western Governors' Association and ask that it be included in the record.

We appreciate your commitment to seek input from the Western Governors. We look forward to working with you on this and other issues of importance to the West in the future. Thank you again for the invitation to testify.

Sincerely,

  
Judy Martz  
Governor of Montana  
Chair

  
Bill Richardson  
Governor of New Mexico  
Vice Chair  
Lead Governor for Energy