



Western Interstate Energy Board/ WIEB

August 25, 2000

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Chairman

Douglas C. Larson
Executive Director

The Honorable Slade Gorton, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
SD 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6033

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
SD 131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-6033

Dear Chairman Gorton and Senator Byrd:

On behalf of the western states implementing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, I want to thank the Subcommittee for recognizing the need to maintain effective state coal mine regulatory programs by increasing funds for state regulatory grants in FY 2001.

The additional \$3 million approved by the Senate for the federal share of state regulatory grants is a significant step toward closing the gap between the baseline needs of state regulatory programs and the Administration's budget request. If sustained in conference committee, the increase will enable states to maintain effective regulatory programs in the West.

Sincerely,

Michael Long, Chairman
Reclamation Committee

Cc: Members of the Subcommittee
WIEB Reclamation Committee