



The Large Public Power Council

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June 14, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee
US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC) for the extension and expansion of the Section 1603 renewable energy Treasury Grant Program. This would permit not-for-profit public power and cooperatives to become “full partners” with the federal government in speeding job creation and in bringing renewable resources on line at a faster pace.

While public power and the cooperatives provide about 30% of the electricity in the country -- federal incentives similar to those used by investor-owned utilities for renewable energy projects are **not available** to either cooperatives or to public power.

As you know, many of these renewable energy projects are **more costly** and present **greater financial risk** than traditional sources of electricity. Public power and cooperatives face the same added expense and financial risks as the investor-owned sector.

LPPC represents 24 of the nation's largest locally owned and controlled not-for-profit power systems. LPPC members are located in 11 states and Puerto Rico and provide reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service to some of the largest cities in the nation -- including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Orlando and Austin.

Austin Energy (TX) • Chelan County PUD (WA) • CPS Energy (TX) • Clark Public Utilities (WA) • Colorado Springs Utilities (CO)
IID (CA) • JEA (FL) • Long Island Power Authority (NY) • Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (CA) • Lower Colorado River Authority (TX)
MEAG Power (GA) • Nebraska Public Power District (NE) • New York Power Authority (NY) • Omaha Public Power District (NE) • OUC (FL)
Platte River Power Authority (CO) • Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PR) • Sacramento Municipal Utility District (CA) • Salt River Project (AZ)
Santee Cooper (SC) • Seattle City Light (WA) • Snohomish County PUD (WA) • Tacoma Public Utilities (WA)

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Collectively LPPC members own and operate over 75,000 megawatts of generation capacity and nearly 34,000 circuit miles of high voltage transmission lines, representing nearly 90% of the transmission investment owned by non-federal public power entities in the United States. Many of our members are leaders in renewable deployment and energy efficiency. We are committed to these policy goals and are closely tied to the values of our local communities.

If our national policy is to encourage the deployment of renewable energy resources, we believe the Congress should enact legislation that provides public power and cooperatives with direct access to federal incentive programs -- incentive programs like the 30% grant program recently enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

We thank you for considering this extension and expansion of the renewable energy Treasury Grant Program and for your recent efforts to make improvements to the Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) program.

Public Power utilities **need** federal incentives if we are to successfully bring renewable projects on line more rapidly and to fulfill our goal of reducing our carbon footprint.

Sincerely,



Jorge Carrasco
LPPC Chair