

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 14, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

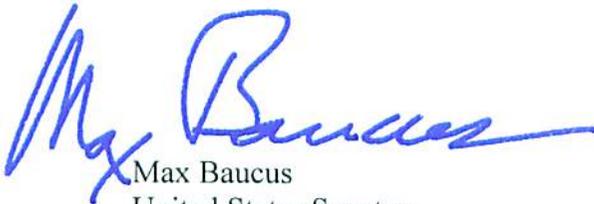
We write to request that you allow at minimum a 60-day public comment period on the draft recommendations from the Joint Outreach Team (JOT) that was created to evaluate policies with respect to your memo of March 16, 2012, to the administrators of the four federal Power Marketing Administrations.

We thank you for making available staff from the Department of Energy (“the Department”) and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) for the meeting we requested in Montana to learn more about our state’s rural electric grid. This meeting, held on November 1 in Great Falls, was an important step in building a rapport between our fellow Montanans and the Department. We believe that your staff learned a great deal about the state of the transmission system managed by WAPA in Montana and the outsized impact of PMA reform on rural Montanans. We appreciated your staff’s availability, preparation, and willingness to listen. It demonstrated a greater commitment to the “robust collaboration” that you promised earlier this year.

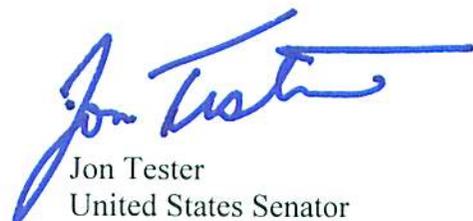
While this meeting was a positive step, we will continue to follow closely the development of this initiative. In particular, we believe that the intense level of interest from our constituents and others merits at minimum a 60-day public comment period on the JOT’s draft recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Max Baucus
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator