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DATE: September 13, 2011

TO: The Honorable Steven Chu & Lauren Azar

FROM: David W. Danner
Utilities and Transportation Commission
Phone: 360-664-1208 Fax: 360-664-3604

COMMENTS: Please see the attached letter from Utilities
and Transportation Commission



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September 13, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

On behalf of the members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), I want to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed delegation of transmission permitting authority from the Department of Energy (DOE) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The Washington commissioners join their colleagues at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissions (NARUC) and at the utility commissions of Oregon, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and New Mexico in recommending that DOE decline to delegate additional authority to FERC. In the WUTC's view, states have not been the major obstacle to permitting new transmission, and we urge DOE to focus more on the need for timely action and coordination by federal agencies.

The WUTC endorses and adopts by reference the joint comments of the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and the Utah Public Service Commission, and encourages DOE to continue its efforts to establish and implement a Rapid Response Team for Transmission.

Sincerely,

David W. Danner
Executive Director

cc: Lauren Azar