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September 2, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary
US Department of Energy
Washington, DC.

Dear Secretary Chu,

I am writing on behalf of the Geothermal Energy Association about the proposal under discussion by the interagency workgroup including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of the Interior (DOI), and Department of Agriculture that would delegate national interest electric transmission corridor designation from the DOE to the FERC, and reestablish FERC "fallback authority" under EPACT 2005, §1221.

We strongly support Administration efforts to eliminate duplication and more efficiently consider renewable energy transmission proposals. Transmission is a critical issue for geothermal as with all renewable power technologies, and we believe this proposal is a constructive approach that will help solve transmission problems.

We urge you to move forward with the proposal under discussion. Doing so will demonstrate positive initiative towards solving transmission issues, while also providing a more formal process for public input to address any remaining issues.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karl Gawell", written in a cursive style.

Karl Gawell
Executive Director