



NORTHERN LARAMIE RANGE ALLIANCE

June 22, 2009

Jim Anderson
Wyoming State Senator
92 Running Dutchman
Glenrock, WY 82637

Re: PacifiCorp and Wasatch Wind Efforts to Industrialize the Northern Laramie Range
in Albany, Converse, and Natrona Counties

Dear Senator Anderson:

The purpose of this letter is to make sure you are aware of the activities of PacifiCorp in promoting the establishment of a new transmission corridor through the Northern Laramie Mountains in central Wyoming. This proposed new corridor is parallel to, and only a few miles east of, PacifiCorp's existing corridor between the same substations. PacifiCorp's persistence in pursuing establishment of this new corridor has led us to form the Northern Laramie Range Alliance to oppose PacifiCorp's action.

To put it simply, this particular "greenfield" piece of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project is unnecessary, potentially extremely expensive, and never has been convincingly justified. It has elicited a degree of focused, organized public opposition, unusual even for transmission line proposals, and evidenced by the enclosed **361** citizen petitions, which are attracting the attention of the federal, state, and local officials concerned. PacifiCorp's manifest inability to explain the need for this particular parallel corridor and address the damage it would cause to Wyoming is troublesome. It is part, of course, of a larger problem: The chaotic and uncoordinated building rush by multiple private entities ("public utilities" like PacifiCorp and others) to install competing and often duplicative grid capacity in the state. This activity bears not even a passing resemblance to the "smart grid" the nation will need to make intelligent use of alternative energy.

Concurrent to PacifiCorp's activity, Wasatch Wind, a Heber City, Utah company, has filed applications with the State of Wyoming to lease 13,000 acres of State land for wind development and has initiated a "fee wind play" in the Northern Laramie Mountains in Converse, Natrona, and Albany counties. Wasatch's intention is to promote (with no local public involvement) a large, industrial-scale wind farm project in this area. This is inappropriate for many reasons – environmental, historical, social, and economic – which our organization documented in a meeting of more than 200 opponents to this project in Douglas, Wyoming, in early May of this year and in an extensive letter campaign to all county, federal, and now state officials. In our effort to demonstrate the community's commitment to opposing large-scale wind development in this part of Wyoming, we submit **225** copies of a petition opposing Wasatch's efforts. This petition drive started later than that associated with the power line problem and petitions are continuously being received.

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Honorable Jim Anderson

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The Northern Laramie Range Alliance came together to work with government and with private ag industry, conservation, and environmental organizations to prevent this industrialization. Since our organizing meeting in early May, we have grown to over **340** members. We are trying to ensure that activities of firms such as Wasatch and PacifiCorp are conducted in the full light of day and with appropriate opportunity for the views of the public to be heard. We support responsible wind-energy development in the high plains areas of Wyoming in which it is suitable, and we will be working with government officials to craft the policies needed to ensure that turbines go where they are appropriate and do not go where they are not appropriate.

We respectfully request that you use your considerable influence to oppose the efforts of PacifiCorp and Wasatch Wind to industrialize this little piece of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

THE NORTHERN LARAMIE RANGE ALLIANCE

Enclosures

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