



## WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

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May 11, 2017

Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1329 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop and Ranking Member Grijalva:

We are writing to reiterate Western Governors' longstanding support for the sharing of revenues derived from renewable energy leasing on federal lands with impacted states and counties. We are pleased to see legislation has again been introduced in the House – the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017 ([H.R. 825](#)), sponsored by Representative Paul Gosar – to enact such revenue-sharing.

States and counties incur costs associated with the development and operation of renewable energy projects located on federal lands. Congress recognized this burden in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15873(a)) when it created a program for the sharing of revenues from geothermal energy production on federal lands. As a result, state and local governments in affected areas have been able to deliver critical governmental services and make needed capital improvements to accommodate development of geothermal energy resources.

Western Governors support deployment of renewable energy projects (and the associated growth in clean energy jobs) in western states. Governors seek to minimize the impacts of energy infrastructure. Shared lease revenues from renewable energy development can be used by state and local agencies to offset impacts in affected areas.

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Western states look forward to helping meet the current and future energy needs of the United States while protecting natural resources. We urge the Committee to pass this renewable energy revenue-sharing bill during the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Please do not hesitate to call upon us if Western Governors can be of assistance as the legislative process proceeds.

Sincerely,



Steve Bullock  
Governor of Montana  
Chair, WGA



Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota  
Vice Chair, WGA