

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

February 26, 2009

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

Re: State Energy Program Assurances

Dear Secretary Chu:

As a condition of receiving our State's share of the \$3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R. 1)(ARRA), I provide the following assurances. I wrote to our public utility commission and asked that they pursue additional actions to promote energy efficiency, consistent with the Federal statutory language contained in H.R. 1 and consistent with their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, and to protect the public. I directed my Commissioner of Labor and Industry to proceed with adoption of the 2009 energy code as quickly as possible. Montana's energy code is in place and a decision to update it this spring already made.

We are prioritizing our energy investments to take advantage of existing programs and expand programs where appropriate.

Montana is committed to a robust improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as a balanced State energy policy. I want to assure you that, within the limits of my authority, we will move forward in these critical areas.

We look forward to immediate distribution of the Federal SEP funds to permit Montana to make additional progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer".

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

cc: Gil Sperling, Director, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs
U.S. Department of Energy
Lou Moore, Department of Environmental Quality
David Terry, Executive Director, National Association of State Energy Officials