



**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**  
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

February 27, 2009

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

VIA Fax: 202.586.4403

Dear Secretary Chu:

As a condition of receiving South Dakota'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 am providing the following assurances. I have written to our Public Utilities Commission and requested they consider additional actions to promote energy efficiency, consistent with the federal statutory language contained in H.R. 1 and their obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates, while protecting the public. I have also written a letter to the South Dakota Legislature and requested they consider actions to improve building energy codes, consistent with state law and state Constitutional requirements, and to consider the statutory language contained in ARRA.

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

South Dakota 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, 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 South Dakota to make progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

**M. Michael Rounds**

M. Michael Rounds

MMR:ls

cc: Gil Sperling, Director, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs  
U.S. Department of Energy, VIA Fax: 202.586.4403  
Michele Farris, State Energy Manager  
David Terry, Executive Director  
National Association of State Energy Officials, VIA Fax: 703.299.6208