



## **Senator Tim Johnson lead sponsor on letter to Secretary Chu regarding PMAs**

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) is pleased to recognize Senator Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) for his leadership in sponsoring a letter sent to Secretary Chu expressing concern over his directives that would alter the mission of the nation's four Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs), and increase electricity costs for public power and cooperative utility customers.

The bipartisan, bicameral letter was led by Senator Johnson, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), and Representative Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) and Representative Jim Matheson (D-Utah).

The letter expresses concern "...that those new initiatives have been put forward without sufficient evaluation of potential impacts to the customers of the clean, reliable electricity marketed by the PMAs." The letter also states "...that the DOE appears to be sidestepping the role of Congress in debating and overseeing policies relating to the PMAs."

All but one of the senators and representatives who represent Missouri River members signed onto the letter or sent one of their own to Secretary Chu. Representative Chip Cravaack (R-Minn.), who represents members in Minnesota's 8th District, did not sign on to the Johnson-Hatch-Gosar-Matheson letter and has not authored his own. A total of 166 members of Congress signed on to the letter.

Secretary Chu intends that the PMAs "play a leadership role" by offering incentives for energy efficiency, and making investments in transmission for the purpose of getting more renewables integrated into the market.

"While MRES supports many of the results being sought by Secretary Chu, the PMAs are not the proper forum to use in accomplishing those results," Radio said. "The Secretary's goals extend far beyond the mission of the PMAs as established by Congress many years ago."

"MRES members, on average, meet roughly half of their power needs through purchases of low-cost, renewable electricity from WAPA," Radio said. "Each of these member utilities will be directly affected if these new policy initiatives are implemented."

MRES appreciates the leadership role that Senator Johnson took on this issue - an issue that is extremely important to MRES, its members, and their customers.