

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 9, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Camp  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1139E Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Grassley, Chairman Levin, and Ranking Member Camp:

Hidden in Section 423 of the fiscal year 2010 Interior Appropriations legislation was a provision that stripped counties of the geothermal energy revenue sharing that was enacted as part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. This section robbed counties of their 25 percent share, which they count on to provide services to their public lands counties.

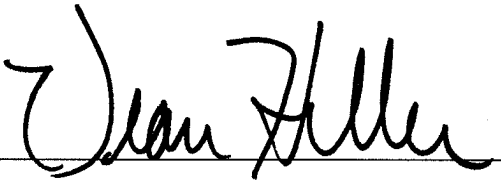
To right this wrong, the Nevada Senate Delegation worked to successfully include an amendment to the Senate version of the tax extenders bill, now H.R. 4213, that would retroactively repeal the provision that stripped counties of this vital revenue. To address this issue, we strongly urge you to retain this important provision in the final bill.

Some of our western counties have as little as 2% taxable land base, and geothermal revenue sharing provides a funding stream that allows communities to fund vital services such as law enforcement, emergency health care and search and rescue. During these difficult economic times, the retention of this amendment in the final version of the bill is vital.

Additionally, our counties, which are already struggling financially, are now being compelled by the Department of the Interior to return monies that have been allocated and, in some cases, spent. Reclaiming these payments will be a significant burden to all impacted counties who use this money for first responders, transportation, public safety and other vital programs. Including this language in a final bill will ensure this problem is fixed.

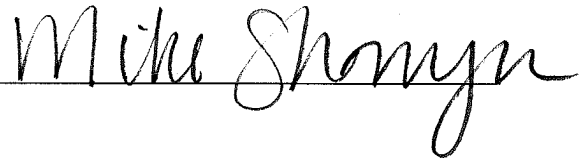
Again, we strongly urge you to include the Senate amendment related to geothermal revenue sharing in the final version of the tax extenders bill.

Sincerely,

  
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Cc: Majority Leader Harry Reid  
Minority Leader McConnell  
Speaker Pelosi  
Leader Boehner  
Chairman Diane Feinstien  
Ranking Member Lamar Alexander  
Chairman Jim Moran