

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 21, 2010

Honorable Nick Rahall
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Doc Hastings
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jim Costa
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
1626 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Doug Lamborn
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral
Resources
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rahall, Ranking Member Hastings, Chairman Costa, and Ranking Member Lamborn:

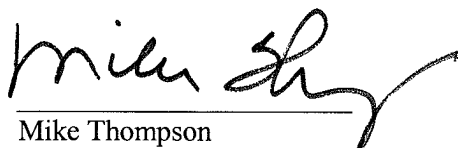
We are writing to ask for a hearing as soon as possible on H.R. 4060, a bill to amend the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 to repeal a provision of that Act relating to geothermal energy receipts.

As you know, the FY10 Interior Appropriations legislation contained 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 robs counties of their 25 percent share, which they count on to provide services, in part, made necessary by geothermal development and production in their communities.

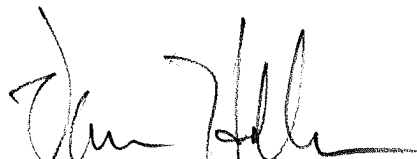
To right this wrong, we introduced H.R. 4060 and implore you to hold a hearing on this legislation as soon as possible. A hearing by the Committee will allow Congress to understand the impact that this action has had on our counties, determine the challenges of enacting a legislative fix, and explore possible solutions for fixing this grave injustice. Some of our western counties have as little as 2% taxable land base, and geothermal revenue sharing provides a funding stream that allowed communities to fund vital services such as law enforcement, emergency health care, and search and rescue. The use of an appropriations rider to take this action makes the problem even more disastrous. At a time when our local counties are struggling to address falling revenues, action by Congress which suddenly cuts 1-3% of a local county budget can be devastating.

During these difficult economic times, this legislation is vital and we look forward to working with you to address the needs of our local counties.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Dean Heller
Member of Congress