

# **BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE**

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Dear Editor:

The United States Congress has returned for a whirlwind legislative session. One of the most important items on the agenda is energy. A well considered energy policy is vital to our nation's economy.

The New ERA energy bill, supported by a bipartisan group of senators, will move America in the right direction with conservation, efficiency, new types of energy sources for the transportation sector, and expanding existing energy sources to reduce dependence on foreign oil. The bill will provide a much-needed extension of the federal wind production tax credit, which will help spur continued wind energy projects in the region.

A proposed tax credit would spur development of carbon capture technology by providing incentives for the sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> in enhanced oil recovery. Coal fuels 50 percent of the electricity generated in the United States and will continue to provide a significant portion of the generation portfolio for many years to come. The continuing climate change debate highlights the immediate need to demonstrate carbon capture from coal-based power plants if coal is to remain a viable and secure energy source for our country. Basin Electric is already taking a lead in this effort with its proposed carbon capture project at the Antelope Valley Station.

This incentive will not only help us use coal more wisely and cleanly, it will help expand domestic oil production right here in the United States.

Energy development with a renewed vision and commitment is sorely needed. I applaud the "Gang of 16" on this legislation and for working together with both sides of the political aisle to bring forth a comprehensive energy policy. This strong leadership is exactly what we need at this critical time.

Sincerely,

Ronald R. Harper  
CEO & General Manager