

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Secretary, Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Gates:

I write today to bring to your attention again a transmission corridor in Nevada proposed by the Department of Defense that could potentially benefit nearby renewable energy projects, as well as the local community, and possibly decrease the Department's costs of adding new transmission capacity. I request that the DOD consider taking this opportunity to utilize the proposed Military Powerline Corridor on the eastern side of the Nellis Test and Training Range for the desired Military purposes as well as to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources.

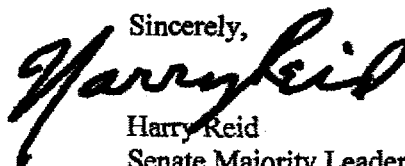
The DOD has asked the Lincoln County Power District for 10 MW of new service, which would require the current transmission to be upgraded with a 1-circuit 138 kV line. This upgrade would be adequate to serve only Defense purposes. However, further expanding the capacity of the line, at the cost of the non-military users, could benefit the Military, help the local power district with its long term planning, and facilitate the development of hundreds – potentially thousands – of megawatts of clean solar energy.

To serve demand in southern Nevada and California, any renewable energy project will require access to adequate transmission capacity to deliver power to the market. By cooperating with the local stakeholders, DOD's proposed corridor could be utilized for both military and non-military energy transmission capacity, thereby enjoying both cost benefits and environmental benefits from avoiding the almost certain need to build additional structures in the future to serve the same general area.

I strongly urge that the advantages to the local community and other potential consumers of clean energy from nearby projects be carefully considered in making your decision, which I hope will come soon.

I greatly appreciate your attention to this matter. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me, or have your staff contact Bob Herbert, Chris Miller or Alex McDonough of my staff at (202) 224-3542.

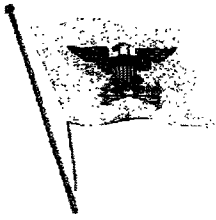
Sincerely,



Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

OSD 07062-09





THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

Thank you for your recent letter providing additional information regarding renewable energy projects in Nevada. I appreciate your taking the time to write and have asked Mr. Michael B. Donley, Secretary of the Air Force, to look into this matter in greater detail. He will get back to you as soon as possible.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,
Robert M. Gates

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