



Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

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Via Fax & U.S. Mail

Western Governors' Association
1600 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: (303) 623-9378
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RE: Comments on Western Renewable Energy Zones Draft Documents and Maps

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) submits these comments regarding the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Western Renewable Energy Zones (WREZ) draft documents and maps. ATNI participated with other interested tribes in developing these comments. While we support the overall efforts by the WGA to seek extending the power grid into geographically constrained areas in order to reach valuable renewable resources, we ask that tribal sovereign and energy resource interests be given thorough consideration throughout the WREZ development process.

As you know, several Northwest tribes are favorably located in areas diverse with natural resources, renewable energy resources, some transmission resources, and generate a large share of their tribal revenues from participation in the energy industry. Northwest tribes are developing and considering the development of large and small hydropower, wave and tidal, geothermal, wind, and biomass generation to help meet renewable portfolio standards. However, since most Northwest tribes appear to not be located within the identified WGA's Renewable Energy Zones we are greatly concerned that transmission plans and grid interconnection for tribes' renewable energy resources will not be a priority for their respective areas. We believe it is imperative that tribal energy resources are considered for overall renewable energy resource integration into the power grid along with increased interstate stakeholder participation.

We understand the focus at this phase in the WREZ process is principally on renewable energy resources for which there is quantified data. Specifically for wind, solar, conventional discovered geothermal energy resources, and some hydropower resources. Nonetheless, many Northwest tribes are well situated to provide distinguishable amounts of renewable energy from biomass resources and generation. For many Northwest tribes biomass resources and generation are located in

geographically constrained areas and could benefit greatly from consideration in the WREZ process, sooner rather than later. Northwest tribes are also considering the development of wave and tidal energy resources as well. Yet wave and tidal energy resources are not included here. We believe including biomass and wave and tidal resources in this process will only enhance the overall analysis and development of the final WREZ.

Presently, many tribes across the nation are realizing benefits from federal policy support for increased tribal energy development. We would like to see this federal policy encouraging renewable energy development on tribal lands to be reflected in the Western Governor's reports by honoring the wishes of Indian Tribes. If tribal lands are chosen for development by the Indian Tribe and these areas do have renewable resources then those areas should be included in Renewable Energy Zones. Furthermore, as sovereign nations with inherent governing authority over our land and resources we have the capacity to form beneficial and effective partnerships with other stakeholders in the development of our energy resources. Indian tribes hold close the ability to identify renewable energy resources on tribal reservation lands and that our lands are indentified as a Renewable Energy Zone. We encourage new transmission to be constructed so that we may develop these resources and create important economic development efforts and opportunities for our people.

In closing, ATNI appreciates the WGA's invitation to comment. Since many Northwest tribes see that tribal energy, renewable energy integration and transmission issues are in need of considerable immediate attention, we encourage WGA to continue communicating and inviting our participation in the WREZ process. Should you have any questions or comments please contact either myself at (971) 255-1404, or Ms. Margaret Schaff at (303) 443-0182.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Calica', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Direlle R. Calica
Energy Program
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians