



The Large Public Power Council

PO Box 34321, Washington DC, 20043 | P (202) 430-0101 | F (843) 278-8351 | lppc@lppc.org

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Large Public Power Council, I am writing to express our support for the recently introduced bipartisan legislation, S.3512, entitled the "Coal Ash and Recycling Act of 2012."

The Large Public Power Council represents 26 of the largest locally owned and operated not-for-profit electric systems in the nation. Members are located in 12 states and Puerto Rico. LPPC member utilities supply electricity to some of the largest cities in the country – including Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Phoenix, Sacramento, Jacksonville, San Antonio, Orlando and Austin. Collectively, our members own and operate approximately 35,000 circuit miles of transmission lines and over 86,000 megawatts of generation, reflecting a portfolio of renewable energy, fossil fuel, nuclear, hydropower and other resources.

LPPC has a strong interest in the establishment of effective regulations for the proper management and disposal of coal ash generated from power plants. One important reason why Congress should pass this legislation is that it encourages the continued beneficial reuse of coal ash in useful products, such as concrete, bricks, wallboard, asphalt, and shingles. In the case of highway construction, the beneficial reuse of coal ash is estimated to decrease the costs of concrete and other construction materials used in roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects by at least \$100 billion over the next 20 years. Furthermore, the recycling of coal ash results in a significant number of benefits to the environment, including substantial reductions in amount of coal ash disposed in landfills and amount of greenhouse gases and other air pollutants that would otherwise be emitted by production of these construction materials.

It should be noted this bipartisan legislation, as set forth in S.3512, establishes a new regulatory approach for the proper management and disposal of coal ash generated from power plants. This new approach will ensure the protection of human health and the environment by applying the uniform federal standards already established for municipal solid waste landfills under existing federal law. State implementation of these minimum federal standards will assure the proper siting, construction, and operation of land-based facilities that store and dispose coal ash and other coal combustion by-products. In addition, the proposed new regulatory program will require prompt implementation of the corrective action measures necessary for remedying groundwater contamination and establish new requirements to ensure the structural integrity of all CCR disposal facilities.

Austin Energy (TX) • Chelan County PUD (WA) • Clark Public Utilities (WA) • Colorado Springs Utilities (CO) • CPS Energy (TX)
ElectriCities of North Carolina, Inc. (NC) • Grand River Dam Authority (OK) • Grant County PUD (WA) • IID (CA) • JEA (FL)
Long Island Power Authority (NY) • Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (CA) • Lower Colorado River Authority (TX) • MEAG Power (GA)
Nebraska Public Power District (NE) • New York Power Authority (NY) • Omaha Public Power District (NE) • OUC (FL) • Platte River Power Authority (CO)
Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PR) • Sacramento Municipal Utility District (CA) • Salt River Project (AZ) • Santee Cooper (SC)
Seattle City Light (WA) • Snohomish County PUD (WA) • Tacoma Public Utilities (WA)

The Honorable Harry Reid
The Honorable Mitch McConnell
November 19, 2012
Page 2

LPPC strongly endorses S.3517. The passage of this bipartisan legislation ensures the beneficial reuse of coal ash for highway construction and other purposes while protecting human health and the environment through state implementation of federal standards for the proper management and disposal of CCRs.

Sincerely,



Lonnie N. Carter
LPPC Chair and
President and CEO
Santee Cooper

LNC:sbj