



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF INYO**

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October 20, 2009

The Honorable Congressman Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
United States House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: California Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative

Dear Representative McKeon:

On behalf of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, I wish to convey the County's dismay that areas removed from the recent Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 are being identified in California's Statewide renewable energy planning activities as areas that are prohibited or restricted for energy development.

As you may know, the Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative (RETI) is working to implement the State's renewable energy policies, and has published numerous documents¹ to that end. As part of the program, maps have been published illustrating areas where energy development is prohibited or restricted due to wilderness designation. Staff from the California Energy Commission, which prepared the maps, has indicated that "Boxer Bill" wilderness lands are so identified. County representatives have repeatedly requested that only Congressionally-designated wilderness areas be displayed on the maps to precisely portray such lands and provide potential renewable energy applicants accurate information regarding the availability of public lands in Inyo County for renewable energy applications. However, Energy Commission staff have declined to do so, indicating that these designations provide information and guidance.

Based on previous discussions with your office, we understand that the "Boxer Bill" wilderness areas are no longer being considered for designation. We respectfully request that you confirm with the California Energy Commission and the RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee this status. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Beverly A. Brown, Chairperson
Inyo County Board of Supervisors

¹ Refer to the RETI website: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/documents/index.html>.

Representative McKeon - RETI

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cc: Board of Supervisors

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The Honorable Senator Barbara Boxer

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Andy Horne, California State Association of Counties, Member of RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee

Joe Bertotti, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Member of RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee