

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
May 13, 2002

The Honorable Christine Whitman
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Whitman:

The Administration's National Energy Policy included a recommendation that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conduct a review of the New Source Review (NSR) program and make recommendations to improve the program. We are writing to urge you to complete that review and to undertake the necessary regulatory process in the near future to clarify and reform the NSR program. We also encourage you to implement any changes in a way that protects human health and the environment while providing regulatory certainty for the electric utility industry and other industries that must comply with the program while providing reliable and affordable electricity to consumers.


We have heard of many situations where confusion over the NSR program is having a dampening effect on utilities' willingness to perform energy efficiency and environmental improvement projects. The NSR program needs to be clarified to adequately define the concept of "routine maintenance" to avoid the regulatory uncertainty currently facing industry. Such clarification would allow companies to repair their facilities and maintain reliable and safe electric service for consumers and workers without being subject to the threat of federal government lawsuits for allegedly violating vague NSR requirements.

Again, we urge EPA to expeditiously proceed with a regulatory process to clarify and reform the NSR program. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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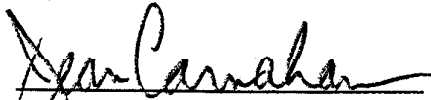
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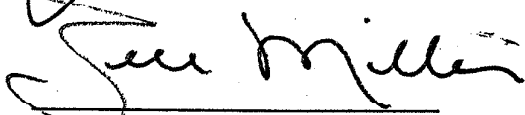


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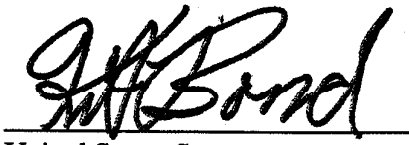


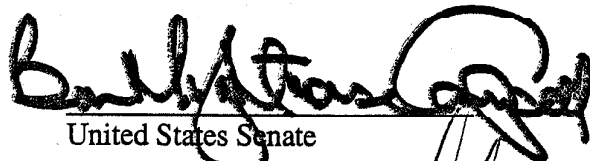
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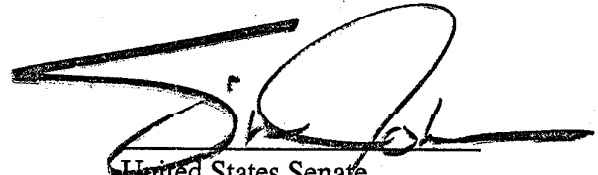

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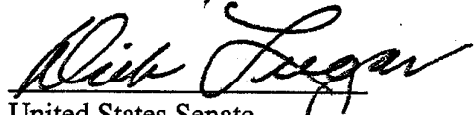

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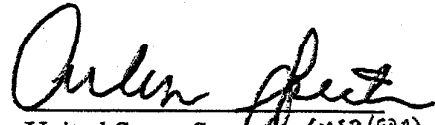

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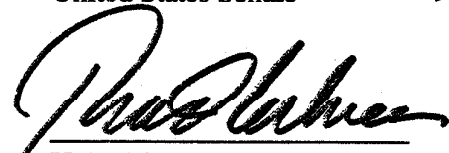

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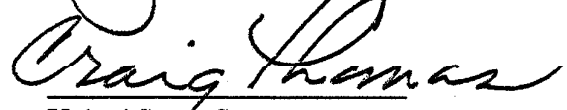

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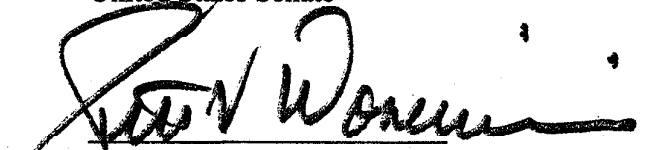

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