



**For Immediate Release**

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**APPA, NRECA APPLAUD MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR VOICING CONCERN  
OVER ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL TO ALTER MISSION OF POWER  
MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS**

Washington, D.C., June 11, 2012 – The American Public Power Association (APPA) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) together representing the interests of nearly 90 million electricity customers nationwide today commended Members of Congress for voicing concern over directives from Energy Secretary Steven Chu that would alter the mission of the nation’s four Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) and increase electricity costs for public power and cooperative utility customers with little, if any, associated benefits. The concern was expressed in a letter to Secretary Chu signed by 166 Members of Congress from across the country, several from areas not even served by the PMAs. The bipartisan, bicameral letter was led by Senators Johnson (D-SD), Hatch (R-UT), and Representatives Gosar (R-AZ) and Matheson (D-UT).

“The congressional support for this letter to Secretary Chu speaks volumes about the level of concern from Americans nationwide over Secretary Chu’s proposals and their potential to cause substantial increases in their utility bills,” said Mark Crisson, president and CEO of APPA. “Secretary Chu’s goals would be achieved at the expense of PMA customers. For decades, the PMAs have successfully helped the nation’s utilities provide clean, renewable, low-cost energy to their consumers. Altering their role threatens to jeopardize that success.”

“Secretary Chu has outlined a plan to radically alter the relationship between the nation’s PMAs and the not-for-profit utilities they have historically served,” said Glenn English, NRECA CEO. “This letter demonstrates that the Secretary’s proposal lacks the support of a broad, bipartisan coalition of regionally diverse legislators and should be reconsidered. While NRECA and our member cooperatives support many of the Administration’s goals related to energy efficiency, cybersecurity, and renewable energy, we remain skeptical of this plan.”

A copy of the letter can be accessed here:

<http://www.publicpower.org/files/PDFs/PMACongressChuLetterJune82012.pdf>

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*Based in Washington, D.C., APPA is the national service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community- and state-owned not-for-profit electric utilities serving 46 million customers.*

*The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national service organization that represents the nation’s more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide*

*service to 42 million people in 47 states. More information on NRECA and its position on the PMAs can be found at [www.nreca.org](http://www.nreca.org).*