



State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

May 11, 2006

Section 1813 ROW Study
Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development
1849 C St., NW.
Mail Stop 2749-MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Secretary Samuel W. Bodman
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Acting Secretary Lyn Scarlett
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Bodman and Acting Secretary Scarlett:

I write this letter to share with you the State of New Mexico's perspective regarding Congress' recent directive to you to conduct a study regarding "energy rights-of-way on tribal land" pursuant to Section 1813 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

As part of this law, Congress directed the Secretaries to "consult with Indian tribes, the energy industry, appropriate governmental entities, and affected businesses and consumers." In addition, Congress directed that the study include "an assessment of the tribal self-determination and sovereignty issues..."

In this regard, I urge you to consult with the various interested parties in New Mexico, including our tribes and pueblos. I respect tribal sovereignty and I believe this study should reflect the probability that fair partnerships between tribal governments and industry will achieve cost-effective and efficient energy production and distribution in New Mexico and the West.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Richardson".

Bill Richardson
Governor

cc by electronic mail: IEED@bia.edu