

**Statement of PPL Montana  
Before the Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications Committee  
Of the Montana State House  
Regarding House Bill No. 114  
January 15, 2007**

**David Hoffman, Manager, External Affairs  
825 Great Northern Blvd.  
Helena, Montana 59601  
(406)457-5300**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is David Hoffman, Manager of External Affairs for PPL Montana. PPL Montana supports this bill, particularly if the activities of the Authority are part of a broader regional transmission organization, or RTO. Any effort to support expansion of the electricity transmission infrastructure in Montana will only benefit customers, suppliers and generators in the region. Expanded transmission may spur new electricity generation development and utilization of the most cost-effective generation supplies for Montana residents, and therefore may also help fuel economic development in the state.

As mentioned previously, any new transmission facilities constructed through the efforts of the Authority created by this bill should be part of any Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) that is established in the Pacific Northwest. Regional transmission planning is required in order to efficiently plan for and coordinate construction of needed transmission infrastructure in the region.

In conclusion, PPL Montana believes House Bill 114 serves the interests of Montana consumers, may spur competitive generation development, and creates long-term economic development in the state and the region.