LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

61st Montana Legislature

Room 110 Capitol Building * P.O. Box 201711 * Helena, MT 59620-1711 * (406) 444-2986 * FAX (406) 444-3036

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June 15, 2010

Montana State Land Board
C/O Mary Sexton, Director
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Governor Brian Schweitzer, Attorney General Steve Bullock, Superintendent Denise Juneau, Auditor Monica Lindeen and Secretary of State Linda McCulloch,

The Legislative Finance Committee recognizes that the Legislature alone has the constitutional authority to appropriate state revenue. This authority needs to be safeguarded carefully. At the same time a disagreement between branches of government that leads to court action is best avoided. The Legislative Finance Committee will begin discussions with members and staff of the Land Board in an attempt to resolve the differences in legal analyses regarding the disposition of Pennsylvania Power and Light compensatory damages. The goal is to resolve these differences by June 28, 2010. Liaisons for the Legislative Finance Committee are Senator Dave Wanzenried and Senator Rick Ripley.

Sincerely,

Representative Llew Jones, Chairman

Senator Carol Williams, Vice-Chair