



U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0552

July 30, 2009

Mr. William Metz
Supervisor, Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Ste 200
San Diego, CA 92127-2107

Dear Supervisor Metz:

I am writing regarding a very important matter that is being discussed in our community, the proposed Sunrise Powerlink transmission line by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E). I know that you have been following this issue and have been tasked with the responsibility of determining if this project adversely affects the land management plan for the Cleveland National Forest (CNF). As you come to this important decision, I wanted to ensure that you were aware of some of my personal concerns, as well as those that I have received from my constituents, many of which neighbor the CNF.

Even before beginning my term this past January, I received numerous comment letters and protests related to SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink project. These concerns range from the proposed route being located in sensitive, fire-prone areas, to this project adversely affecting critical habitat for endangered and sensitive species. My constituents are worried how this project will adversely affect their property values, as well as take away the scenic natural beauty that has been a defining characteristic of East San Diego County since the days of the indigenous Kumeyaay people.

While I understand the desire to create new renewable energy sources for the region, I am not convinced that other viable energy alternatives, such as nuclear, have been completely researched and pursued to determine if they would better meet our needs or prove to be more cost-effective for ratepayers. Beside the energy alternatives, more research into the technology associated with this project needs to occur as well. For example, I recently had a meeting with representatives from a company that produces superconductor electricity pipelines that allow for the transfer of renewable electricity underground where rights of way already exist. This approach, if feasible, not only provides the potential for a significant increase in power capacity and transmission, but does so in a manner that is both less intrusive and safe. While I do not know if this specific approach is compatible with the Powerlink project, prudence dictates that all these alternatives be fully explored and reviewed before any final decisions are made.

Other concerns continue to persist as well. It is my understanding that some evidence in the draft environmental impact report for this project suggests that the power line will become harmful to the environment by adding more greenhouse gases than it will save. Additionally, I

have yet to be provided with a compelling explanation as to why the proposed route for this project cannot follow existing roads and easements, such as Interstate 8 and the existing power lines of the Southwest Powerlink, thereby avoiding the intrusion into private property and public lands as is currently planned.

Supervisor Metz, I urge you to take these concerns into full consideration as you make this important decision. While recently outlining your efforts to determine if this project is compliant with all applicable laws and regulations, I was encouraged to hear you also state that maintaining the innate quality of the CNF would remain among your top priorities. I fully support this approach and I encourage you to take whatever actions necessary to ensure that your final decision has exhausted every effort toward that end, including allowing the public to provide comment and to have access to pertinent information regarding this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with my thoughts and concerns on this important subject. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions, or if I may be of assistance in any way regarding this matter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

DH/mrh