

DOCKETED

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KATE BROWN
Governor

July 11, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown
Governor, State of California
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

I applaud your work and the efforts of the California energy agencies to expand the California Independent System Operator into a Western regional system operator (RSO). I believe a well-designed RSO could deliver substantial benefits to the citizens of California, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming through a more integrated electricity grid.

Oregon has been an active participant in the regional dialogue on the potential of transitioning to a Western RSO. To date, the regional discussions have been very encouraging and have addressed important issues that will help the Governors, legislatures, and regulatory agencies in each state understand and quantify the costs and benefits of a multi-state investor owned utility joining the RSO. It is important that governance of the RSO be independent and represent all the states whose jurisdictions are impacted by the operation of the RSO. Only with independent representation can we be guaranteed that the benefits will be adequately distributed amongst the participating states.

I commend the participating states on the productive and open conversations on the governance principles. I also appreciate the progress that has been made by California to authorize necessary changes so all the states involved can move forward with analysis of the potential costs and benefits, while at the same time exploring the development of durable design elements for a multi-state RSO.

I am grateful for your work on this important effort to improve our region's electricity grid.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

KB:rs

