

PROTECT THE PUTT-PUTT

A COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

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February 20, 2010

Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester
US Forest Service Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

Re: North Cache Conveyance Project by the Bridger-Teton National Forest

Dear Mr. Forsgren:

Several months ago, we suggested formation of an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act¹, to better inform your agency's decision on this project (copy enclosed). In our letter, we suggested that collaboration with interested individuals and organizations in our community will improve the quality of decision-making and increase public trust and confidence.² Whereas your agency's decision on this issue will have serious, long-range consequences and is potentially very divisive for this community and your agency, we advocated a collaborative effort using a formal advisory committee.

At that time, you demurred, stating this "is not an appropriate use of the advisory committee process" (copy enclosed). But citizens in this community do desire more input and frankly have a great deal more to contribute. Therefore, as citizens move forward to organize themselves into more of an ad hoc committee, we hope that you will at least remain open minded about this process. We hope that you will allow this process a chance, forestalling any decision for the moment. And in your role as a public servant, we hope that you will embrace whatever outcome this process may bring for the good of all interested parties.

Thank you for your consideration.

¹ 5 USC App.2

² Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), "NEPA Task Force Report—Modernizing NEPA Implementation", Sept. 2003.

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Sincerely yours,

Charles L. Payne, Jr.

cc: Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture
Harris Sherman, USDA Under-Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment
Jay Jensen, USDA Deputy Under-Secretary
Tom Tidwell, Chief of US Forest Service
Carol "Kniffy" Hamilton, Bridger-Teton Forest Supervisor
Town of Jackson Mayor and Council members
Teton Board of Commissioners
Wyoming Congressional Delegation