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## Salt Lake City

UTAH PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

2007 AUG 30 P 12:50

144386

RECEIVED

July 28, 2007

Mr. Warren E. Buffett  
Berkshire Hathaway, Inc.  
1440 Kiewit Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

Re: Utah Petition Encouraging Energy Diversification

Dear Mr. Buffett:

As a citizen of, and business person in, the Salt Lake City area, I have become concerned with the deteriorating air quality in the region (now ranked 5<sup>th</sup> worst in the country) and its effects on our ability to grow new businesses in, and attract other businesses to, our region. With Rocky Mountain Power's submission in late 2006 of an Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") to our Public Service Commission that proposed adding yet more coal to the already coal-heavy power generating capacity in the region, I felt that, between the direct cost to business of employees' compromised health to the less direct effect of increased health insurance costs, we risk poisoning ourselves right out of business.

Understanding that power plant emissions are not our only source of air pollution, I have been speaking publicly about energy efficiency, and vehicle and other stationary emissions. However, with the volume and toxicity of coal fired power plant emissions that escape capture, and with the IRP now being debated here, power generation emissions have taken on a particular urgency. I decided to create a petition in March to help raise awareness in Utah of both the sources from which our energy is derived and the long-lived consequences of the choices we make now. I addressed the petition to you personally, as the leader of the entity which is the controlling interest of our power company. The petition, including the over 1,500 we have gathered, is attached for your review.

In the process of collecting signatures, we have seen these issues become featured news throughout our regional news media (probably in part a reflection of the national media's attention to environmental issues). This has inspired the formation of several local air quality groups, further galvanizing the public's concern. As an example, the Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment was formed to educate the public about the severe health consequences – including respiratory and circulatory pathologies – arising from our energy generation and other activities. These activities have conspired to create a record number of bad air days in the region in each of the past several years. Separately, Utah Moms for Clean Air was organized to draw attention to the impact of environmental issues – including those that are causing our bad air – on our children's health and development. As you can see, the petition itself has attracted support from businesses, particularly from those engaged in the outdoor recreation industry, a major revenue generator for our state, and the industry most immediately at risk to a compromised

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environment. The petition has also attracted the attention of and been endorsed by a number of local political leaders. A list of corporate and other endorsements for the petition is also attached for your reference.

All together, these groups have garnered strong support and attention, and have helped create a substantive and statewide dialogue on air pollution and its health effects. The conversation is now shifting to what can be done to improve our air quality and health. In fact, a recent poll published in *The Deseret News* illustrates very strong local-area support for all of the alternatives to coal in power generation – from natural gas and geothermal, to wind and solar, biomass and even nuclear options. Our state is already rich in the natural resources that underlie many of these other options. Utilizing any one or more of these other options would, in addition to cleaning up our air, help the state create a multitude of new, high-tech, high-wage jobs. We believe these other energy sources would allow us to deliver ample energy to meet our own needs and to export our surpluses to our higher rate-paying neighbors in surrounding states.

We have seen Mid-American Energy's leadership in progressive energy solutions, and we hope our efforts have sufficiently demonstrated our interest and motivation such that you will give our petition your attention and support. We anticipate that, through the subsequent actions of Rocky Mountain Power, we may observe your influence and action in our region.

Thank you very much for accepting and considering our petition submission. It is my hope that you have the opportunity in the near future to come and visit this great state of Utah, and enjoy all of the natural beauty and other riches it has to offer.

Very truly yours,

**CORPORATE REAL ESTATE GROUP, LLC**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander H. Lofft", written over a horizontal line.

Alexander H. Lofft  
Principal & Broker



June 1, 2007

**Office of The Mayor**  
Dana Williams

Mr. Warren E. Buffett  
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY, INC.  
1440 Kiewit Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68131

RE: Mid American Energy and Rocky Mountain Power

Dear Mr. Buffett,

We represent a collection of citizens and business owners with a common sense of home, including what makes it special and what we need to do to preserve it. As customers here in Utah, we would like to take a moment to share with you a concern of ours regarding the future of Rocky Mountain Power's power generation portfolio in our region. Through Utah's Public Services Commission, we learned that Rocky Mountain Power seeks to expand its power generation resources through the construction of up to three large, coal-fired power plants. We feel this is anathema to the direction we want our state to go, and indeed to the direction the country is headed.

Our concerns come down to three basic interrelated themes – our regions' climate, its health, and its economic vitality. We feel strongly that additional coal fired plants in our region compromise all three which, in turn, will have negative consequences for Rocky Mountain Power's future projected customer base and its shareholders.

Access to cheap energy is certainly attractive, but because we already source about 95% of our energy from coal (while the national average is roughly 53%), we believe we must consider much more seriously the myriad of collateral costs when choosing the future sources of our energy. Coal is currently the source of 60% of U.S. sulfur dioxide emissions, 33% of U.S. mercury emissions, 25% of nitrogen oxide emissions, and more than 33% of the nation's carbon dioxide air emissions.<sup>1</sup> Particulate matter is also a major concern, particularly for asthma-prone children and the elderly.

In addition to the health and environmental effects, Utah's disproportionate dependence on coal brings disproportionate impact, illustrated in our area in what are known as inversions. During the winter months in Salt Lake City, as the temperature drops and more pollution accumulates, these immense blankets of toxins grow consistently thicker in altitude, denser and more yellow in appearance, and more rancid in taste, completely obscuring the 11,000 foot peaks right outside our doors. Simply breathing becomes more of a self-conscious exercise in these conditions!

But how does this affect Rocky Mountain Power?

We believe that the collective negative impact on our health and environment threatens our future economic vitality. Utah's natural beauty and environment are recognized worldwide for providing a high

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<sup>1</sup> **Chemical & Engineering News** - Cover Story, February 23, 2004, Volume 82, Number 08 CENEAR 82 08 pp. 20-25 ISSN 0009-2347

quality of life, resulting in national and international commerce operations deciding to build their headquarters here, as reflected in this great accolade (as reprinted on EDCUTAH's website):

*Outside Magazine* ranked **Salt Lake City** as the "Best Place to Live" in its August 2005 edition. It attributed this ranking to such qualities as "livability" remarking how Utah's natural landscape "earns glowing reviews . . . from recreationists." (*Outside Magazine, August 2005*)

It is this attribute of our home that we enjoy so much and are working hard to protect and enhance. However, if the cumulative effects of our activities compromise our health, obscure our viewsheds, shrink and contaminate our watersheds, and thin out our most beloved snowpack, then our attractiveness as a place to live and work is also threatened, and so is our economic competitiveness as a major metro area and a state, compromising our recent gains in income and property values.

Parallel to this is the trend we see towards more regulation over pollution, particularly greenhouse gas emissions. While coal may appear inexpensive now, the externalized costs, including increased health care spending (particularly for pediatric and geriatric care), remediation of emissions effects and spent fuel disposal, tighter extraction regulations increasing suppliers' costs, increased transportation costs, new emissions controls, and the anticipated costs from climate change impacts will vastly outweigh any future savings from coal. We believe the proposed rates presented to the Utah Public Services Commission avoid the full effect of these costs, artificially deflating the projected cost of coal-derived energy and concealing a necessary rate hike to us, your rate payers, in the future when these costs come due.

As a way to hedge against such costs, those that will likely be borne by ratepayers, we believe that Utah's energy portfolio should be diversified with other energy sources, specifically wind, geothermal, natural gas, solar, and biomass. It is our understanding that technological advances in these four areas are advancing at such a rapid pace, we will be referring to such energy sources in the not-so-distant future as mainstream while coal will be considered alternative.

In conclusion, while we understand that coal is not the only source of our pollution, we must continue to reduce our fossil-based energy footprints to help reduce the negative effects of such sources. We hope that you can appreciate what we seek to protect here in Utah and will work with us to develop a more diversified approach to provisioning power that is more fair to your customers while still defensible to your shareholders. Such is our appeal to you, our guest and friend, as you lead your newest acquisition into the future.

Kindest regards,



Dana Williams  
Mayor of Park City

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Chris Kirk

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