## UTAH STATE SENATE



SENATOR IVAN M. MATHESON

TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT WASHINGTON, GARFIELD, IRON AND KANE COUNTIES

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APPROPRIATIONS
Higher Education
OF THE COMMITTEES
OF THE COMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN

Agriculture and Health 67: 7 d S- 13 Energo and Natural Resources

October 1, 1987

Bryan T. Stewart, Chairman Public Service Commission Heber Wells Building 100 East 300 South SLC, UT 8411-5850

Dear Ted:

I am writing regarding the proposed merger of Utah Power and Light and Pacific Power & Light Companies.

As you are probably aware, costs for use of electric power in the southern part of the state for irrigation pumping and light industrial uses has become so high that it is almost impossible for volume users of the power to stay in business. I was personally involved in pumping water for agriculture purposes over a long period of time and until two years ago. Many users have shifted to engines which pump water both with the use of oil and propane at a These shifts have considerable lesser cost than electricity. created heavy monetary burdens to persons re-equiping their pumping systems. At this point in time any move which could considerably reduce costs for this type of user would help many of them stay in business and stay on electrical systems which are much more trouble free in operation. Every indication is that power costs could be dropped as much as 10 percent by the merger of these two electric utilities.

I feel that every feasible means must be used in this state to reduce the cost of power if we are to compete in industry and agriculture. I, therefore, strongly urge your support and approval of the merger.

Sincerely,

Ivan M. Matheson

Utah State Senator, District 29

IMM/jbt