

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4656, by Representatives Ormsby and Riccelli

1 WHEREAS, On November 17, 2015, a storm hit Washington state
2 packing hurricane-force winds, recorded at 119 miles per hour in the
3 Cascade Mountains and 71 miles per hour near Spokane; and

4 WHEREAS, Three deaths were attributed to the storm, as well as
5 millions of dollars in structural damage; and

6 WHEREAS, Electric utilities in the Inland Northwest, including
7 Inland Power and Light, Kootenai Electric Cooperative, and Avista
8 Utilities, sustained significant damage that caused prolonged
9 outages; and

10 WHEREAS, Nearly 180,000 utility customers lost power, surpassing
11 the notorious ice storm in 1996 and making it the largest outage in
12 the utility's 126-year history; and

13 WHEREAS, Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency on
14 November 18, 2015; and

15 WHEREAS, The state of Washington as well as agencies of
16 neighboring states worked to ensure expedited and unencumbered travel
17 for crews that came to support restoration efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, 700 individuals comprising 132 utility, contract, and
19 mutual aid crews from six western states and Canada worked 16-hour
20 shifts over nearly 10 days to restore service to all utility
21 customers; and

22 WHEREAS, Scores of volunteers from the city of Spokane, Spokane
23 County, and community organizations went door-to-door to check on

1 vulnerable citizens who were without power, providing food, shelter,
2 and assistance to those who needed it; and

3 WHEREAS, Utility customers exhibited incredible resilience and
4 patience and demonstrated appreciation to the crews working to
5 restore power, bringing them coffee and food and offering
6 encouragement; and

7 WHEREAS, Spokane city and county leaders, first responders,
8 community support agencies, and countless others worked together to
9 help the community and region recover from the storm; and

10 WHEREAS, The power restoration efforts demonstrated the skill,
11 professionalism, and commitment of the nearly 700 IBEW lineman who
12 assisted in the recovery operations; and

13 WHEREAS, By 3:45 a.m. Friday, November 27, crews had successfully
14 restored power to the nearly 180,000 utility customers, working
15 through adverse weather and demanding conditions without a single
16 safety incident;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
18 hereby recognize and honor the citizens and community leaders of the
19 Inland Northwest, as well as utility workers from Washington and
20 throughout the region.

21
22 I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
23 Resolution 4656 adopted by the House of Representatives
24 February 9, 2016
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Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk