
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8030

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By Senators Doumit, Hargrove, Berkey, Morton and Rasmussen

Read first time 01/16/2004. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT
5 AND BUDGET, AND TO THE HONORABLE SPENCER ABRAHAM, SECRETARY OF THE
6 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, AND TO STEVEN WRIGHT, ADMINISTRATOR
7 OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION, AND TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF
8 THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF THE CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITIES AND THE
9 INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES WHO ARE SERVED BY THE BONNEVILLE POWER
10 ADMINISTRATION:

11 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
12 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
13 represent and petition as follows:

14 WHEREAS, The economy of the Pacific Northwest Region is struggling
15 to recover from an economic downturn, and high electricity prices have
16 contributed to the struggles; and

17 WHEREAS, The best way to facilitate an economic recovery in the
18 Pacific Northwest Region is to promote the success of Northwest
19 businesses and industries; and

1 WHEREAS, The largest single economic asset to business and industry
2 in the Pacific Northwest has historically been the inexpensive energy
3 provided by the federal based hydro system; and

4 WHEREAS, Decisions made by the Bonneville Power Administration over
5 the past several years have radically altered the distribution of these
6 benefits among the residents, businesses, and industries in the Pacific
7 Northwest; and

8 WHEREAS, These decisions have resulted in more than seventy-five
9 percent of these benefits being transferred to the residential and
10 small farm customers of investor-owned utilities; and

11 WHEREAS, The accrual of benefits to this narrow customer group
12 results in an unequal distribution of benefits of the federal based
13 hydro system, and specifically results in nearly zero benefits to
14 business and industrial customers of most consumer-owned utilities
15 across the Northwest; and

16 WHEREAS, The Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980
17 is the federal law that governs how the distribution of these benefits
18 are to be determined; and

19 WHEREAS, The current distribution of benefits is contrary to a fair
20 reading of the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, A settlement of this legal dispute currently being
23 proposed by the Bonneville Power Administration does little or nothing
24 to change this unfair and unequal distribution of the benefits of the
25 federal based hydro system, either in the short term or in the long
26 term; and

27 WHEREAS, The terms of this settlement do not follow a fair reading
28 of the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980; and

29 WHEREAS, This settlement provides only very small and very
30 short-term rate relief to Pacific Northwest consumers; and

31 WHEREAS, Long-term rate relief is critical to the continued
32 economic viability of the Pacific Northwest;

33 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that in a
34 spirit of cooperation and a willingness to work together to benefit the
35 economy of the entire region, which will help the economic outlook in
36 each sector and segment of the region, all participants in the related
37 litigation resolve to abandon the proposed settlement, which falls
38 short of accomplishing these stated goals, and begin developing a true

1 settlement that flows from a fair reading of federal statutes, is fair
2 to all participants, and results in true long-term rate relief for the
3 entire Pacific Northwest Region.

4 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
5 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
6 States, the Office of Management and Budget, the Honorable Spencer
7 Abraham, Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, Steven
8 Wright, Administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, the
9 honorable members of the Boards of Directors of the consumer-owned
10 utilities and the investor-owned utilities served by the Bonneville
11 Power Administration, the President of the United States Senate, the
12 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress
13 from the State of Washington.

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