
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4030

State of Washington

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By House Committee on Energy & Utilities (originally sponsored by Representative Bray)

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1 TO THE HONORABLE BILL CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 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 SECRETARY OF ENERGY HAZEL
5 O'LEARY:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Congress created the Bonneville Power Administration to
10 revitalize the stagnant Pacific Northwest economy with inexpensive
11 hydropower from the Bonneville Dam and other dams on the Columbia River
12 system; and

13 WHEREAS, The Pacific Northwest electric marketplace is changing due
14 to the deregulation of the electric utility industry, the end of the
15 Northwest energy surplus, increased competition in power markets, new
16 and growing environmental commitments, and new investment needs; and

17 WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration has initiated its
18 Competitiveness Project through which it will reorganize itself in
19 order to maintain its low-cost supplier position by increasing its
20 efficiency and becoming an institution that is market-driven, customer-
21 focused, cost-conscious, and results-oriented; and

1 WHEREAS, Vice President Gore's National Performance Review Task
2 Force has designated the Bonneville Power Administration one of
3 seventeen "Reinvention Laboratories" in the federal government that
4 will become more efficient, more responsive, and in some cases, a
5 smaller government agency that cuts through red tape, exceeds customer
6 expectations, and unleashes innovations for improvement from its
7 employees; and

8 WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration is supported by the
9 revenues it receives by selling electric power, transmission services,
10 and other products primarily in the Pacific Northwest; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration provides sixty-five
12 percent of the electric power consumed in the state of Washington; and

13 WHEREAS, The Washington State Energy Strategy states, "energy is
14 one of the key factors that defines the economic opportunities,
15 environment, and quality of life in the state of Washington"; and

16 WHEREAS, The National Academy of Public Administration has
17 completed a report that concludes that Bonneville Power administration
18 fits all the criteria for a government corporation; and

19 WHEREAS, Corporation status would save ratepayers tens of millions
20 of dollars every year in administrative costs and retain the Bonneville
21 Power Administration's relationships with Congress, the Northwest Power
22 Planning Council, and state and local governments, and retain its
23 energy conservation and fish and wildlife responsibilities;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
25 President and Congress support the Bonneville Power Administration's
26 Competitiveness Project that represents the agency's efforts to retain
27 its status as the region's low-cost electricity provider and become a
28 more efficient, as well as, effective competitor in the utility
29 industry; and

30 BE IT RESOLVED, That the Clinton Administration work closely with
31 the Bonneville Power Administration through Vice President Gore's
32 National Performance Review to assist Bonneville in becoming more
33 responsive to the needs of the Pacific Northwest; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Congress designate the Bonneville
35 Power Administration as a government corporation that would continue to
36 operate under the terms and conditions of existing federal legislation
37 in order to gain operational and management efficiencies while
38 preserving energy conservation and fish and wildlife responsibilities;
39 and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of the this Memorial be
2 immediately transmitted to the President of the United States, the
3 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives, each member of Congress from the State of Washington,
5 the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Utilities, and
6 to Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary.

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