
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8031

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Hale and Fraser

Read first time 01/17/2002. Referred to Committee on Environment,
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:

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

8 WHEREAS, The United States Congress established the Renewable
9 Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program in the Energy Policy Act of
10 1992 to provide direct payments to not-for-profit utilities for energy
11 produced by new renewable energy projects; and

12 WHEREAS, REPI is the counterpart to the program authorized in the
13 same act which grants private utilities a federal tax credit for energy
14 produced by new renewable energy projects; and

15 WHEREAS, REPI has proved to be a valuable and needed program to
16 encourage public power systems and rural electric cooperatives to
17 pursue development of renewable technologies; and

18 WHEREAS, Authorization for the current REPI program expires in 2003
19 and must be renewed by Congress to continue to assist not-for-profit
20 utilities in the development of cost-effective renewable resources and

1 to provide a measure of parity with the incentives provided to private
2 power companies; and

3 WHEREAS, The effectiveness and vitality of the REPI program also
4 depend on congressional support for annual appropriations to provide
5 more certainty to utilities considering development of renewable energy
6 projects; and

7 WHEREAS, Reauthorization and an increase in federal funding for
8 REPI could also benefit the Northwest by encouraging development of
9 energy resources that provide significant environmental benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, The volatility in the western electricity market in 1999
11 and 2000 also demonstrated the need for the Northwest to develop
12 additional generating resources and to broaden the diversity of its
13 resource portfolio and REPI could play an important role in meeting
14 those regional goals; and

15 WHEREAS, In calendar year 2001 not-for-profit utilities applied for
16 almost \$30 million in incentive payments from the REPI program, but
17 less than \$4 million was made available to provide incentives for these
18 renewable energy projects;

19 NOW THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully urge the Northwest
20 congressional delegation, the United States Congress, and the Bush
21 Administration to:

22 (1) Reauthorize REPI for an additional ten years, with such
23 modifications as are needed to provide greater certainty of payment
24 and, therefore, greater incentives to qualified renewable energy
25 projects; and

26 (2) Provide a level of funding for REPI that will maximize the
27 potential for development of new renewable resources by not-for-profit
28 utilities.

29 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
30 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
31 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
32 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
33 Washington.

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