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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4021

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Wallace, Crouse, Morris, Condotta, Lovick, Kessler, Darneille, Berkey, Hatfield, Hudgins, Moeller and Blake

Read first time 02/27/2003. Referred to Committee on Technology, Telecommunications & Energy.

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 STEVEN WRIGHT,  
5            ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION, AND TO SPENCER  
6            ABRAHAM, SECRETARY OF ENERGY, AND TO TOM RIDGE, SECRETARY OF HOMELAND  
7            SECURITY:

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

11           WHEREAS, The State of Washington's economy is constructed on  
12           affordable and reliable electricity; and

13           WHEREAS, Energy prices in the Northwest are threatening businesses  
14           and industries, including aluminum companies; and

15           WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing yet  
16           another rate increase to go into effect on October 1, 2003; and

17           WHEREAS, The proposed increase is 15% more than the current rates,  
18           which are already extremely high due to the more than 50% increase that  
19           has already occurred in the last couple of years; and

1       WHEREAS, This increase will cost the state's economy one billion  
2 dollars over the next three years; and

3       WHEREAS, Many industries moved to Washington to take advantage of  
4 low-cost hydroelectric power. They are now paying more for power in  
5 Washington than in most of their other locations in the nation; and

6       WHEREAS, Without affordable energy for these industries (aluminum,  
7 pulp and paper, aerospace, agriculture, etc.), thousands of family-wage  
8 jobs will be lost; and

9       WHEREAS, Many of these jobs are in rural and economically  
10 challenged areas. These industries are at the core of many Northwest  
11 communities and provide the foundation for numerous secondary  
12 employment opportunities and also provide substantial tax revenues; and

13       WHEREAS, The proposed rate increase will do more than jeopardize  
14 high paying jobs. The nation is suffering a severe recession and the  
15 Pacific Northwest is already the hardest hit region in the country; and

16       WHEREAS, Any increase in Bonneville Power Administration rates will  
17 only slow or prevent economic recovery as well as exacerbate the  
18 state's budget crisis; and

19       WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration has the tools  
20 available to meet all of its legal obligations, including protecting  
21 fish and wildlife, without raising rates; and

22       WHEREAS, As a result of its \$500 million in prepayments to Treasury  
23 to avoid a rate increase, the Bonneville Power Administration can cut  
24 costs (not just slow its rate of growth) and utilize its newly acquired  
25 additional borrowing authority and the flexibility it has garnered; and

26       WHEREAS, This region simply cannot support an additional billion  
27 dollar hit to its economy over the next three years;

28       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully communicate their  
29 request for the Bonneville Power Administration to not adopt rate  
30 increases at this time and to use other tools at its disposal to manage  
31 costs until economic recovery is in sight.

32       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
33 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
34 States, Steven Wright, Administrator of the Bonneville Power  
35 Administration, Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy, Tom Ridge,  
36 Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the President of the

1 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
2 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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