
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8018

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Parlette, Poulsen, Hewitt, Berkey, Zarelli, Prentice, Doumit, Rockefeller, Fairley, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles, Schoesler, Brandland, Schmidt, Shin, Pridemore, Mulliken, Honeyford, Brown, Kline and Regala

Read first time 02/18/2005. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Environment.

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 SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, SAMUEL W. BODMAN:

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, The Bonneville Power Administration supplies seventy
10 percent of the electrical power consumed in the state of Washington;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Currently and since its creation the rates established for
13 such power have been based upon recovery of its costs; and

14 WHEREAS, The Pacific Northwest region has experienced a nearly
15 fifty percent increase in wholesale power rates since the energy crisis
16 of 2001-2002; and

17 WHEREAS, The President's proposed fiscal year 2006 budget would
18 transition the Bonneville Power Administration from cost-based rates to
19 market-based rates;

1 WHEREAS, The Office of Management and Budget has estimated that
2 such change would result in an estimated increase of one hundred
3 dollars per year for each Pacific Northwest ratepayer; and

4 WHEREAS, This budget proposal would cost the Northwest region four
5 hundred eighty million dollars next year and two and one-half billion
6 dollars over three years; and

7 WHEREAS, The arguments to justify these increased rates, that of
8 accelerating Bonneville's debt repayment to the United States Treasury,
9 are not well founded in light of Bonneville's success in recent years
10 of early repayment of its debt, despite the sale of power at-cost and
11 during difficult economic times; and

12 WHEREAS, This proposal if enacted would essentially result in a one
13 hundred percent increase in power rates over a seven-year period, which
14 will severely harm the region's businesses and industries, as well as
15 all the residents of the region;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
17 proposal to transition the Bonneville Power Administration from cost-
18 based rates to market-based rates, as expressed in the President's
19 fiscal year 2006 proposed budget, be rejected.

20 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
21 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
22 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
24 Washington, and the Secretary of the United States Department of
25 Energy, Samuel W. Bodman.

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