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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representative Morris

Read first time 01/20/17. Referred to Committee on Technology & Economic Development.

1 TO ELLIOT MAINZER, BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION LEAD  
2 ADMINISTRATOR AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
3 ENERGY:

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

7 WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration operates and  
8 maintains over fifteen thousand circuit miles of transmission line,  
9 known as interties, across the western United States, including  
10 Washington state; and

11 WHEREAS, The Bonneville Power Administration has recognized its  
12 role in encouraging the development of renewable resources within the  
13 Pacific Northwest; and

14 WHEREAS, The Montana intertie segment of the eastern intertie,  
15 which stretches across the state of Montana and into the state of  
16 Washington, was originally built and paid for in part by Washington  
17 utilities to provide transmission services for coal-fired generating  
18 facilities located in southeastern Montana; and

19 WHEREAS, The Montana intertie also provides transmission services  
20 for renewable energy resources that are vital to the decarbonization  
21 of the electric sector and the energy independence of the Pacific  
22 Northwest; and

1       WHEREAS, There is an existing one hundred eighty-four megawatts  
2 of unsubscribed transmission capacity in the Montana intertie, which  
3 is expected to grow in the next five years; and

4       WHEREAS, The closure of Colstrip Units 1 and 2 by 2022 will  
5 further free up transmission capacity for new or expanded clean and  
6 renewable energy resources from Montana into Washington state,  
7 thereby providing access to resources that can help Washington meet  
8 its renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals; and

9       WHEREAS, Public utilities would transmit energy between many  
10 existing and proposed renewable energy resources and the Bonneville  
11 Power Administration's eastern intertie; and

12       WHEREAS, The economic health of the state of Montana directly  
13 impacts the economic well-being of the state of Washington; and

14       WHEREAS, The existing transmission rate charged by the Bonneville  
15 Power Administration of two dollars per megawatt is a barrier to new  
16 investment in energy generation resources in Montana; and

17       WHEREAS, The transmission rate is only applied to one segment of  
18 less than one hundred miles out of a fifteen thousand mile system, in  
19 an area that is in the most need of new energy resources investment;  
20 and

21       WHEREAS, Reduction or elimination of transmission costs will  
22 promote the development of new energy and capacity resources in an  
23 area of Montana that is experiencing losses in energy and capacity  
24 resources;

25       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
26 Bonneville Power Administration consider a rate design for the  
27 eastern intertie that eliminates or reduces the transmission rate  
28 associated with that part of the eastern intertie known as the  
29 Montana intertie.

30       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
31 transmitted to Elliot Mainzer, Bonneville Power Administration Lead  
32 Administrator and the Secretary of the United States Department of  
33 Energy.

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