
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4008

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By House Technology & Economic Development (originally sponsored by Representative Morris)

READ FIRST TIME 02/09/17.

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 and interties, across the western United States, including Washington
10 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 Eastern Intertie segment of the Montana Intertie,
15 which stretches across the state of Montana and delivers power into
16 the state of Washington, was originally built and paid for in part by
17 Washington utilities to provide transmission services for coal-fired
18 generating facilities located in southeastern Montana; and

19 WHEREAS, The Eastern Intertie also can and does provide
20 transmission services for renewable energy resources that are vital
21 to the decarbonization of the electric sector and the energy
22 independence of the Pacific Northwest; and

1 WHEREAS, There is an existing one hundred eighty-four megawatts
2 of unsubscribed transmission capacity in the Eastern 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 known as the Montana
15 Intertie Rate charged by the Bonneville Power Administration is a
16 barrier to new investment in energy generation resources in Montana;
17 and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, Encouraging full subscription of the Eastern Intertie
27 will reduce the transmission rates paid by Washington utilities and
28 their ratepayers;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
30 Bonneville Power Administration consider a rate design for the
31 Eastern Intertie that eliminates or reduces the Montana Intertie
32 Rate.

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

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