

HJM 10 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

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Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requests the United States Department of Energy and the United States Congress to support the Bonneville Power Administration in providing cleaner, more affordable, and more reliable energy to all consumers in the Pacific Northwest.

Detailed summary:

Requests the United States Department of Energy and the United States Congress to support the Bonneville Power Administration in:

- *Taking action to move the Pacific Northwest toward net economic benefits and enable all energy consumers to reap the benefits of competitive pricing, a reliable and resilient infrastructure and preparedness for future load growth.*
- *Maximizing the use of low-cost federal debt to build out its electrical transmission system across the West.*
- *Utilizing grid-enhancing technologies to the greatest extent possible.*
- *Considering all the needs of the region for which BPA is the high voltage transmission backbone.*
- *Increasing transparency on construction costs and make robust use of competitive practices when awarding construction contracts.*

Urges the federal government to provide competitive compensation authority to BPA to hire and retain the technical and other expertise it needs to meet its organizational mission. Requires that a copy of memorial be sent to the President of the United States, to the United States Secretary of Energy, to the administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, to the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

- *FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement issued yet*
- *REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement issued yet*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is a federal agency that was established in 1937. BPA operates and manages a network of transmission lines and hydroelectric dams in the Pacific Northwest. It helps balance supply and demand, ensuring grid reliability and stability and sells electricity wholesale to public utilities, large industrial customers, and some federal agencies. A significant portion of BPA's energy comes from renewable energy sources, particularly hydropower from dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (also called the Northwest Power Act) is a key piece of legislation designed to guide the development and management of the region's electric power resources, with an emphasis on both energy efficiency and environmental protection. The Act created a balanced approach to addressing the growing demand for electricity in the Pacific Northwest while also conserving resources and protecting fish and wildlife. The Act established the Northwest Power and Conservation Council

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(NWPCC), an independent entity that is responsible for developing and maintaining a regional power plan. The Council consists of representatives from the four Pacific Northwest states: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.