

Action Alert!

Most consumer-owned utilities purchase some or all of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). BPA is able to borrow a certain amount of money from the U.S. Treasury at low interest rates to finance expensive projects – like upgrades to transmission, improvements to the hydropower system, conservation programs, and fish and wildlife measures. These projects are paid in full and with interest by money collected through your electric rates.

This “borrowing authority” that BPA has with the U.S Treasury helps to keep electric rates stable while completing critical power reliability projects for the region. BPA’s existing borrowing authority is limited – and could run out by 2011.

Currently, Congress is considering legislation to jump start the U.S. economy. At the urging of Northwest consumer-owned utilities, members of Congress from the region are in support of increasing the amount of money BPA can borrow.

Increasing BPA borrowing authority would have a positive effect on the Northwest economy. It will keep people employed with money flowing to material suppliers and other businesses. Just as important, it would enable BPA to complete some critical projects for the region to improve power reliability.

We are grateful to the Northwest congressional delegation for advocating an increase in BPA’s borrowing authority as part of the Economic Stimulus package in Congress. While the final outcome is unknown, we wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work on behalf of consumer-owned utilities and their customers. Please take a minute to copy the message below, and send it to your members of Congress to thank them for a job well done:

Thank you for your work to help increase BPA borrowing authority with the U.S. Treasury as part of the Economic Stimulus plan. This action will help the Northwest economy, facilitate “green” energy sources and jobs, and also complete important reliability projects for the region.

Often people contact you to express concern or opposition to an issue. This time, I would simply like to say thank you for working on behalf of consumer-owned utilities and their customers.

Sincerely,

Your Name & Address

Member of Peninsula Light Company



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