



IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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October 17, 2002

Stephen J. Wright
Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, OR 97212

Frank L. Cassidy, Jr.
Chair
Northwest Power Planning Council
851 SW 6th Ave. Suite 1100
Portland, Oregon 97204-1248

Dear Mr. Wright and Mr. Cassidy:

I am writing on behalf of the 56,000 member families of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) regarding Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and its future role supplying power to the Pacific Northwest. IFBF commends both BPA and the Northwest Power Planning Council (the Council) for recognizing the importance of BPA's role in the region's energy market and acting now to address the issues of how BPA will market power and distribute the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) after 2006.

It is our understanding that at this point all options are open and no one proposal is favored over another. We urge BPA and the Council to remember what is at stake. It is not just long-term access to cost-based federal power by public and investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and direct-service industries (DSIs) in the region and BPA's future role in resource development, but the fabric of our economy and way of life in this region. Because BPA supplies over half the generation and three-fourths of the high voltage transmission, every IFBF member, every resident in the region, will be impacted by the outcome of this process.

IFBF is not supporting a specific proposal at this time, but does wish to enter into the discussion and participate in developing both the draft proposal and BPA's final policy. As the discussion goes forward, we urge BPA and the Council to keep in mind BPA's mission: *BPA exists to meet its public responsibilities through commercially successful businesses.*

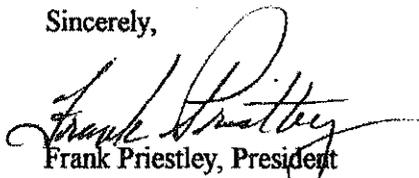
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BPA was founded by Congress in 1937 to provide power at cost to the region in order to stimulate its economy and development. While recognizing that mission has now expanded to encompass other responsibilities, it is important to remember BPA's resources are finite. If BPA fails in its stated mission of assuring an adequate, economical, efficient and reliable power supply to the Pacific Northwest and ensuring transmission access, public preference, and regional preference to customers, then it will not succeed in meeting its other responsibilities relating to the environment and social obligations such as protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife, conservation and the development of alternate energy and renewables. It is important to balance the economic and environmental benefits. Many of the comments we have observed in this process do not appear to seek such a balance or recognize BPA's need to run the system in a manner that is commercially successful.

IFBF urges BPA to continue operating the system in a manner that will optimize the use of water and storage capabilities, emphasize reliability, provide power at cost and keep rates low to stimulate an already lagging NW economy. BPA must remain financially strong in order to meet its Treasury payments.

Sincerely,



Frank Priestley, President
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Cc: Rick Keller
Greg Nelson
Lynn Tominaga
Ray Poe
John Williams
Senator Larry Craig
Senator Mike Crapo
Congressman Mike Simpson
Congressman Butch Otter
Governor Dirk Kempthorne
Scott Turlington
Jim Yost