NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION 08-8

IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL CONTROL OF RETAIL RATE SETTING AND CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLES PROGRAMS

Through the efforts of local control, consumer-owned utilities in the West have established themselves as leaders in providing equitable retail rates, and in developing conservation and renewables programs for their consumers. Consumer-owned utilities have been involved in conservation standards in this region for over 25 years. To complement conservation efforts, utilities are investing in renewable energy programs to meet growing demands for "green" power. Also, each utility in this region, through its own rate studies and socioeconomic studies, has been able to determine the fair share of costs for each class of customer.

The Northwest Public Power Association is strongly opposed to any effort, nationally, regionally or by states, that would change the regulation of these utilities from traditional and historical local control. For all types of consumer-owned utilities, these elected officials are responsible for the proper functions of their own utility and are directly accountable to the ratepayers.

The Northwest Public Power Association believes rate making should be left to the authority of the locally elected board of consumer-owned electric utilities. We oppose the imposition of retail rates or rate design mandated by state, federal, or regional bodies upon publicly owned electric utilities. Similarly, NWPPA opposes efforts to impose conservation and renewables programs on its member utilities who continue to demonstrate leadership in these areas.

The Northwest Public Power Association also believes that federal and state legislators should remove barriers and create incentives for public power utilities that choose to develop conservation and renewable resources. Legislators should work with local consumer-owned utilities to remove or reform rules and laws that hinder their development or acquisition of conservation and renewable resources; and create comparable tax incentives equivalent to those available to private utilities.

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