

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

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3 **9-06 Archived Resolution**

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5 **IN SUPPORT OF RURAL UTILITIES SERVICES (RUS) PROGRAM**

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7 Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans provide substantial benefits for
8 a relatively small federal investment. Interest rates on RUS loans have an
9 important impact on the lives and livelihoods of rural people. For that
10 reason, it is important that rural electric distribution utilities have access
11 to adequate funding for the insured loan program at rates comparable to
12 those available to local public agencies. In view of proposals to
13 restructure the electric utility industry and increased efforts to provide
14 rural telecommunication services, adequate RUS loan funds are
15 especially necessary if rural electric utilities are to continue to provide
16 essential services in rural America. Additionally, adequate electric and
17 telecommunication services -- including high speed internet access --
18 must be assured for rural consumers in areas that might not be
19 attractive to other utilities or telecommunication providers.

20 Accordingly, NWPPA supports the continuation of the RUS
21 Electrical Loan Program and further supports the RUS Broadband
22 Grant/Loan Program to help fund the deployment and development of
23 rural broadband.

24 NWPPA urges Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to meet
25 member systems' financial needs for both electrical and
26 telecommunications infrastructure through the Rural Utilities Services at
27 the lowest possible interest rate.

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31 Origination Date: 1997

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33 Revised: March 2004