

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

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3 **16-06 Archived Resolution**

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5 **BROADBAND NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE AND**
6 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES**
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8 The Northwest Public Power Association recognizes the availability
9 of affordable local access to broadband telecommunications and data
10 transport services and the construction of Internet backbone in rural
11 communities is critical to the quality of life and economic development in
12 the Northwest. Creative efforts are needed to promote rural investment
13 in Internet backbone such as the creation of local networks and the
14 encouragement of competing technologies and service providers in the
15 Northwest.

16 An example of this effort is seen with the Bonneville Power
17 Administration's (BPA) investment of considerable resources in
18 developing a fiber optic communications network in the Pacific
19 Northwest. The primary purpose of these investments is for
20 communication and control of BPA's extensive generation and
21 transmission facilities in the region. However, the economies of scale
22 associated with fiber optics enable BPA to lease excess fiber capacity to
23 other entities, both public and private, interested in the
24 telecommunications potential of fiber optic cable.

25 Driven by customer requests, and poor or nonexistent service from
26 commercial telecommunications providers, a growing number of
27 Northwest public power systems are interested in offering
28 telecommunication infrastructure to their rural communities. Partnering
29 with BPA for use of excess fiber capacity, as is being done by the
30 Northwest Open Access Network (NoaNet), provides important
31 technological and economic benefits for these public power
32 telecommunications efforts.

33 The continued use of excess BPA fiber capacity is critical for the
34 success of these local telecommunication ventures that are vital to the
35 quality of life and economies of many rural communities. Moreover, this
36 partnership has improved the efficiency of the federal investment in
37 BPA's underlying and essential fiber optic communications control
38 system.

39 The Northwest Public Power Association encourages the
40 Administration and Congress to set forth a national fiber policy that
41 continues to allow for creative ways of encouraging the proliferation of
42 broadband telecommunications and data transport services in
43 underserved rural communities. This includes allowing the Bonneville
44 Power Administration to continue to lease to public power and
45 cooperative systems in the Pacific Northwest its excess fiber optic
46 capacity in order to provide essential telecommunications services to
47 consumers.
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51 NWPPA also urges Congress to reject any effort to preclude or
52 unreasonably limit the ability of BPA to construct fiber optic cable or
53 partner with public or private parties for the use of such facilities.
54 Furthermore, NWPPA supports Congress' recognition that "any entity," as
55 stated in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, is allowed to offer
56 telecommunications services.

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60 Origination Date: 2000 by Mason PUD #3

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62 Revised: 2004 and 2005

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64 Archived: