

1 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

2
3 **28-07 ARCHIVED RESOLUTION**

4
5 **IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED LIHEAP FUNDING**

6
7 The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
8 provides heating and cooling assistance to almost 5 million low-income
9 households across the United States, including elderly, disabled, families
10 with small children and the working poor. Since its creation in the
11 1970s, the program has helped families and individuals at the margin of
12 society cope with rising energy costs. Rising oil and natural gas prices
13 are placing low-income households in a precarious financial situation.
14 While the average U.S. household spends sever percent of its income on
15 home energy usage, the average low-income household spends seventeen
16 percent or two and one half times the average burden. Compounding the
17 difficulties faced by these households are steadily increasing energy
18 costs. According to the Energy Information Administration, energy costs
19 for oil, propane and natural gas have increased dramatically since 1998.
20 Over the years, the number of households eligible for LIHEAP has
21 continued to grow while the funding for the program has remained at
22 levels equal to or below 1980-dollar amounts.

23 In addition to helping low-income households meet their rising
24 energy costs, increased LIHEAP funding helps promote positive
25 partnerships between the federal government, state governments, public
26 power and the private sector. Energy is a basic need and without an
27 adequately funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program,
28 households will be forced into choices between electricity, heating, food,
29 medical treatment or even remaining in their homes. Therefore, NWPPA
30 supports the effort by a broad-based coalition of organizations including:
31 the American Public Power Association, National Rural Electric
32 Cooperative Association, utilities, industry, social service and charitable
33 organizations urging the Bush Administration to increase LIHEAP
34 funding.

35
36 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

37
38 Origination Date: 2005 by Emerald People's Utility District (EPUD)