**Northwest Public Power Association**

**Resolution 2017-13**

**In Support of Grid Modernization Assistance**

**Background**

The Pacific Northwest has been an industry leader in energy planning, energy conservation, and clean energy resource development. The region has embraced new energy resources such as electric vehicles, distributed energy such as solar, renewable energy sources including wind and geothermal, and is a recognized leader in green buildings. Grid modernization technology (often referred to as ‘smart grid’ technology) is an area where the region has also taken a leadership role, as evidenced by the number of member utilities who have engaged in Department of Energy technology grants, made their own investments in modernization technologies at the distribution level, and collaborated with consumers to pilot technologies.

Promotion of modernization and optimization technologies through pilots and large scale demonstration projects can benefit NWPPA members. Promotion also stimulates the economy through job creation with the development of new equipment and software for metering, monitoring, controls, communications and other operational and consumer technologies. Modernization solutions can allow a more effective accommodation of increasing levels of variable energy resources as well as optimizing the system for various distributed energy resources – such as distributed renewables, energy storage, automated demand response, transactive controls, and homes/buildings that more intelligently interact with utility systems. Grid modernization can also allow integration of connected, responsive, and controllable assets to the benefit of the overall grid system and end-use consumers through interactively managing energy affordability, and increasing resilience and reliability.

Recognizing the potential benefits, Congress sought to stimulate grid modernization technologies development through the legislation since 2007 with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) and, more recently, in comprehensive energy legislation.

**NWPPA's Position**

* NWPPA supports the federal government’s continued role in stimulating grid modernization technology development by supporting research and development and grants for pilots and implementations of various grid modernization technologies.

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