Northwest Public Power Association
Resolution 2018-18
Public Power Support of Electric Vehicle Policies

Background

Electric utilities see great promise in the electrification of the transportation sector, including electric vehicle (EV) adoption and deployment. As the resource mix of electric utilities becomes less carbon-intensive, transportation electrification becomes a more attractive policy option to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality in our communities. EVs offer an environmentally-beneficial source of load growth and an opportunity to demonstrate our local and global environmental stewardship. Further, electricity used as a transportation fuel reduces petroleum consumption, decreases our need to import oil, and improves our nation's energy security.

Public power is ideally positioned to partner with the auto industry, electric vehicle owners, municipal and private vehicle fleets, car sharing companies, and communities to offer products and services that encourage EV adoption and provide convenient and grid-friendly vehicle charging options. Many public power utilities have found that investments in charging infrastructure, customer education, and designed rates and incentives encourage EV adoption. These investments depend on continued support for EVs at the federal level.

Both the electric and transportation sectors are impacted by regulatory and customer pressure to reduce carbon emissions. While the challenges for the transportation sector are different, consumers’ support for low-carbon solutions is growing annually. The electric sector is adapting to these pressures, making strides in its own carbon reduction efforts, and poised to assist the transportation sector’s move toward the use of electricity as a new low-carbon transportation fuel. EVs represent an opportunity for public power to meet carbon policy challenges and support growing customer demand for EVs, while increasing electricity sales and moderating rate pressures.

NWPPA’s Position

Should the Administration and Congress address issues related to transportation electrification, electric vehicles, or vehicle emission standards:

- NWPPA supports national policies that maintain state authority to regulate vehicle emissions under the Clean Air Act, and that incent production and deployment of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.
• NWPPA supports investments by public power utilities that encourage transportation electrification to optimize electric grid infrastructure, improve management of electric loads, and integrate renewable energy resources.