

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**
2 **Resolution 2019-14**
3 **Rural Utility Service**
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5 **Background**

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7 USDA’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) administers programs that provide much-needed
8 infrastructure and infrastructure improvements to rural communities. These include water and
9 waste treatment, electric power, and telecommunications services. All of these services play a
10 critical role in helping to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for
11 rural residents.
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13 Utilities programs connect rural residents to the global economy by: increasing access to
14 broadband and telecommunications services; funding sustainable renewable energy
15 development and conservation; financing reliable and affordable electric systems; working to
16 integrate electric smart grid technologies; and developing reliable and affordable rural water
17 and wastewater systems.
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19 **NWPPA’s Position**
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- 22 • NWPPA supports the RUS and its mission of enabling the building and maintaining of
essential electric infrastructure through the Electric Loan Program.
 - 23 • For RUS to remain a strong partner with eligible entities, NWPPA urges Congress to
24 provide sufficient RUS loan levels and RUS lending for a full complement of generation
25 including baseload, transmission, and distribution projects.
 - 26 • NWPPA urges RUS to provide efficient loan processing.
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28 Origination Date: 2015. Revised in 2016.