

1 **Northwest Public Power Association**

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3 **Proposed Resolution 11-09**

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5 **Encouraging Congress to Take a Holistic Approach to Energy,**
6 **Transmission and Environmental Policy**

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8 The mission of consumer-owned electric utilities is to provide low-cost,
9 reliable electricity, while being responsible environmental stewards. Public
10 power utilities are directly accountable to the people they serve through locally
11 elected or appointed officials, and they are not-for-profit, so their rates are
12 determined by their costs – which are in turn passed through to their
13 customers. Therefore, by their very nature, consumer-owned utilities are
14 focused on the needs of their customers and communities, and are responsive
15 to concerns about electricity costs, reliability and environmental stewardship.

16 This situation has resulted in consumer-owned utilities often taking the
17 initiative and leadership roles in implementing “green” power programs and/or
18 investing in clean energy, but at the same time having done so after first
19 determining the costs and benefits of such programs to their customers and the
20 future of their utilities. Many demands are placed on electric utilities and,
21 therefore, consumer-owned utilities have the challenge to constantly balance
22 and recognize the relationship between their goal to provide low-cost, reliable
23 electricity for their customers and to meet and achieve environmental mandates
24 and goals.

25 Consumer-owned utilities will continue to strive to provide low-cost,
26 reliable electricity and at the same time work toward environmental goals and
27 objectives –thereby contributing to America’s economic well-being. Consumer-
28 owned utilities must be able to continue to invest in a diverse, cost-effective and
29 reliable power generation portfolio, while being responsive to clean energy and
30 energy efficiency goals of their customers and communities.

31 We must also ensure that the pursuit of our nation’s energy,
32 transmission and environmental goals are considered holistically as much as
33 possible, rather than in isolation, to maximize the quantifiable benefits and
34 cost-effectiveness of the policy approaches to our customers, and minimize
35 redundant or competing policies and outcomes. The holistic approach to policy
36 development should take into account, among other considerations, factors
37 such as: electric system reliability; energy costs; impacts to customers;
38 conservation targets and achievements; technology-based and incentives-driven
39 energy solutions; the uniqueness of each power system; and environmental
40 stewardship.

41 Accordingly, the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) urges
42 Congress and the Administration to ensure that the pursuit of our nation’s
43 energy, transmission and environmental policy goals are considered together
44 holistically rather than as separate and potentially conflicting policy
45 approaches, and, thereby, support public power’s mission to provide low-cost,
46 reliable electricity and responsible environmental stewardship for our
47 customers and communities.

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49 **NORTHWEST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION**

50 **Origination Date: 2009 by Chelan PUD and SnoPUD**