

Northwest Public Power Association

Resolution 2010-06

Climate Change

Background

NWPPA recognizes the relationship between energy and environmental policies and understands that federal climate change policy continues to evolve. NWPPA members face growing uncertainty over what the future of federal climate change policy will be and how that future will affect the ability of NWPPA's utilities to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electric power. Federal policies to address climate change could have substantial impacts on our consumers and, therefore, it is in NWPPA's best interest to provide Congress clear guidance regarding policies to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

NWPPA's Position

If any GHG emission reduction policies or statutes are enacted by Congress:

- Federal legislation should ensure uniform application across the United States and should pre-empt individual implementation of state, regional and Environmental Protection Agency GHG reduction programs.
- All sectors of the economy should have reduction targets proportional to their contribution to GHG emissions and timelines for achieving those targets which should be based exclusively on lowering GHG emissions and not on raising government revenues to fund unrelated activities.
- Consumer-owned utilities must maintain their right to local control by retaining the flexibility to meet GHG reduction targets in ways that best meet the needs of their communities and do not mandate acquisition of energy resources that are unnecessary to meet load growth.
- Consumer-owned utilities should receive appropriate credit for all current and past actions to prevent, reduce or mitigate GHG emissions.
- Legislation should exclude any form of auction in GHG markets and instead, include mechanisms to provide cost certainty for utilities to protect consumers from excessive prices, price volatility, fraud, and market manipulation — as evidenced by the Western electricity crisis of 2001.

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