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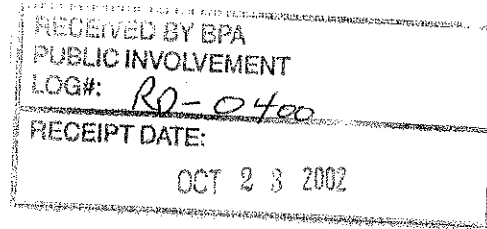
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OR Department of Education
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OR Food Bank
OR Heat

Bonnie Davidson
Executive Director

Debra Kennedy
Oregon Energy Partnership



October 16, 2002

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, OR 97208

Dear Administrator Wright,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Public Interest Proposal for the post 2006 contracts with utilities. We believe this is an important opportunity to craft an energy plan that benefits consumers, protects the environment and provides economic benefits for the region.

We are submitting comments on behalf of Community Action Directors of Oregon and Oregon Energy Coordinators Association. We not only represent our membership, but low-income consumers of Oregon.

We urge you to adopt the Public Interest Proposal. The proposal provides enormous environmental benefits in the form of cleaner air, water, public lands and human health. It saves working families' money by stabilizing energy prices and provides more certainty in our energy supply.

Low-income households, spend on average, 20% of their annual income on energy. Investments in low-income weatherization will help reduce their burden and provide important health and safety benefits. BPA has a legal responsibility to consider the social costs of its energy resource choices and to make energy conservation a priority.

Continued or increased funding for these programs will help meet the goal of weatherizing every eligible dwelling in the next 20 years. Current funding does not come close to meeting the need of households eligible for weatherization.



We support continued distribution of weatherization funds for low-income programs through Community Action agencies. Utilities will not make investments in energy efficiency on their own.

Continued investments in training and technical assistance funds will create jobs and provide an educated, capable workforce.

While our focus is on low-income customers, we also support the proposal for its investments in renewable energy because of the economic and environmental benefits. These investments will provide jobs and help rural economies in desperate need of economic development opportunities. These investments will also reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and the fluctuations in prices we've seen this past winter.

The proposal also provides vital protections to our wild salmon by giving them an equitable voice. It provides a hedge against situations where choices must be made between fish and power.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our input. If you would like further information please contact us at the numbers listed below.

Sincerely,

Debra Kennedy
Oregon Energy Partnership Coordinator
Community Action Directors of Oregon
503-365-3909

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Oregon Energy
Coordinators Assn.
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cc: Governor Kitzhaber
Sen. Ron Wyden
Sen. Gordon Smith