

ELDERS IN ACTION

Quality of life should never depend on age.

July 31, 2007

Steven J. Wright
BPA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Wright:

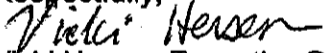
I am writing as executive director for Elders in Action, a non-profit organization working to solve problems, tackle important issues and help businesses and communities better serve the older customer. We believe the quality of life should never depend on age and welcome the talent and wisdom that older adults can provide to make communities in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties more livable for all. We believe the Residential Exchange benefit issue has a great impact on the elderly population. Many seniors live on very low, fixed incomes and simply aren't able to absorb the 13% rate increase. Many will have to make hard decisions of whether to reduce the amount of medicines they buy, purchase less food, stay less warm and many other hard life choices as a result of the increase. We encourage you to find a way to restore this benefit as soon as possible.

We understand that a majority of the people of Oregon — some 75% — are served by Portland General Electric or Pacific Power. The current loss of benefits, and the level of those benefits when they eventually resume, is a matter of critical significance to thousands of Oregon families.

The Northwest Regional Power Act is intended to assure that all residents of the northwest share in the benefits of the federal Columbia River power system. Whether they are served by an investor-owned or a public utility, they should all have an equitable share of the approximately \$2 billion in annual BPA benefits. Before the suspension, Residential Exchange benefits were already at a modest level, relative to the substantial benefits BPA provides to its preference customers. We hope that we will not see Residential Exchange benefits eroded below their recent levels.

We urge BPA and the stakeholders in this process to produce a long-term solution that will provide stability and restore full benefits. Many of the elders that we serve will face significant hardship this winter if benefits are not restored before the winter heating season.

Respectfully,


Vicki Hersen, Executive Director
Elders In Action,
1411 SW Morrison St., Suite 290, Portland, OR 97205

Mission: To assure a vibrant community through the active involvement of older adults.

1411 SW Morrison Street, Suite 290 · Portland, OR 97205-1912

Phone: (503) 235-5474 · Fax: (503) 595-7599 · info@eldersinaction.org · www.eldersinaction.org