



Office of Mayor Tom Potter
City of Portland

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:

The 13 percent rate spike our citizens have seen on their bills as result of the suspension of the Residential Exchange benefit is something I expected to be only a temporary burden to Portland families when it was announced in June. Every Portlander - almost 600,000 people - is affected by this action, and they deserve to have that benefit restored soon, and at a fair level. The suspension is especially burdensome on our residents whose household incomes fall below the poverty level. They need a swift and fair resolution to this issue.

When Congress passed the Northwest Regional Power Act in 1980, it intended to assure that all northwest residents share in the benefits of the federal Columbia River power system. That is as true today as it was in 1980. Before the suspension, Residential Exchange benefits were already at a modest level, relative to the tremendous value BPA provides to its preference customers. It would be a painful blow for the citizens of Portland to see those benefits eroded further.

I urge you to restore this credit before brisk fall nights turn to dark and cold winter days. Citizens of Oregon served by private utilities are entitled to a fair resolution that ensures benefits from the regional system are shared as equitably as possible.

Respectfully,

Tom Potter
Mayor