



City of Gresham

Mayor Shane T. Bemis

1333 N.W. Eastman Parkway
Gresham, Oregon 97030-3813
(503) 618-2306
Fax (503) 665-7692

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 write to you regarding the suspension of the Residential Exchange benefit program. Gresham is now the fourth largest city in Oregon, and directly faces big city issues daily. A significant and growing percentage of people living in our community have household incomes that fall below the poverty level, and they are already struggling to meet basic monthly living expenses. The 13% rate increase our citizens have seen on their bills as result of the suspension of the Residential Exchange benefit is something I understood would be temporary, when it was announced in June.

Please understand that these Residential Exchange benefits are no small matter to thousands of Oregon families. I know that about 75 percent of Oregon's residences and small farms are served by private utilities. In Gresham, all of the people who live here are served by PGE and are directly affected by the Residential Exchange program.

The Residential Exchange benefits provided to Gresham citizens – and the other residential and small farm customers of private utilities - were already at a modest level, relative to the approximately \$2 billion in annual BPA benefits. Our citizens deserve to have the Residential Exchange credit restored at a fair level, and to have it done as soon as reasonably possible.

Sincerely,

Shane T. Bemis
Mayor