



CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

Mayor

Paul Thalhofer

City Council

Jim Kight

David Ripma

Norm Thomas

Robert Canfield

Barbara Kyle

Doug Daoust

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:

Troutdale sits at the gateway to the Columbia Gorge, on the shores of the magnificent and productive Columbia River which brings the benefits of hydropower from the Federal system to the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, as a result of the 9th Circuit Court decision, these benefits have stopped flowing to the good citizens of Troutdale. Our people are experiencing a 13% increase in their electric bills due to the loss of the Residential Exchange credit. We are accustomed to icy winter storms, but this winter will be particularly bitter if the credit is not restored by heating season, especially for our most vulnerable residents.

The citizens of Troutdale, and all of the other citizens of the Northwest who are served by private utilities like PGE and Pacific Power, were receiving these bill credits because the Northwest Regional Power Act intends for them to share in the benefits of the federal Columbia River power system. Despite the 9th Circuit decisions, this fundamental premise remains intact. The region must work together to come up with a sustainable, long-term solution to ensure that benefits are restored at a fair and equitable level. I encourage BPA to restore the Residential Exchange Credit as soon as possible, and to take a stronger leadership role in forging the long-term solution to accomplish that.

Thank you for offering an opportunity to comment on this very important issue. It is one we will continue to pay close attention to in the coming months.

Respectfully,

Mayor Paul Thalhofer

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