

# WPUDA supports the continued independence of the Bonneville Power Administration to market the energy and capacity of the Federal System to Preference Customers.



*BPA and consumer-owned utilities have a long history of effectively addressing the unique needs and challenges of the region utilizing regional expertise, knowledge, and experience. WPUDA supports BPA's effort to ensure that the resources that have played a vital role in the region's ability to serve customers with low-cost clean electricity continue to benefit the region well into the future.*

## Ensuring the value of the Federal Columbia River Power System is realized by Washington's PUD customers

Many PUDs rely on the Bonneville Power Administration for the resources needed to power their communities. Bonneville Power Administration Resources play an important role in the ability of PUDs to serve customers with clean, reliable, affordable electricity.

BPA contracts expire in 2028 and WPUDA strongly supports the efforts by BPA to examine their competitive status in the energy marketplace, assessing ways to decrease costs and improve revenues. As BPA has many responsibilities for managing this important federal resource, we are committed to working with them to help them retain their competitive position so that the value of the system can continue to be realized by Washington consumers.

In September of 2019, an article appeared in *Greenwire*, a publication of E&E News, that seriously misrepresented BPA's financial position. BPA Administrator Elliott Mainzer provided a statement calling out the mischaracterizations in the article which "painted a grossly inaccurate picture of BPA's current financial condition." During this critical time of energy transformation, it is vital to focus on making decisions based on accurate, credible and verifiable information. WPUDA is committed to serving as a resource to BPA and members of Congress on energy issues related to the federal system.

WPUDA opposes any effort to privatize the Bonneville Power Administration or change the status of BPA. This is especially important at this time when the state is actively engaged in developing carbon reduction and clean energy strategies. Hydropower is important to implementation of many of these strategies and the federal system is an integral part of meeting our carbon reduction goals in Washington State.

In addition, it is important to note that the Federal Columbia River Power System is funded by power customers in the Northwest, not taxpayers. If the federal government sells Bonneville Power Administration assets, they are selling assets paid for by power customers with no guarantee the value of the assets will be returned to the region. The sale of assets also brings into question the continuation of funding for important programs such as fish and wildlife and energy conservation.

**Contact: George Caan, Executive Director**  
[Gcaan@wpuda.org](mailto:Gcaan@wpuda.org)

WASHINGTON PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION  
**WPUDA**  
YOUR connection