



2019 State Legislative Priorities

PROTECTING AGAINST CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES

Increasing numbers of wildfires and their ensuing damages pose a catastrophic threat to public utilities and their ratepayers. We support sensible legislation that:

- Establishes clear guidelines for DNR fire investigations and investigator training standards; and
- Provides level of immunity to public utilities for compliance with approved vegetation and right-of-way maintenance plans.

FULLY FUNDING THE PUBLIC WORKS TRUST FUND

The Public Works Trust Fund ("PWTF") is a crucial funding partner in our efforts to provide necessary water infrastructure for Pend Oreille PUD's nine water systems. We support full funding for the PWTF's budget, and oppose diverting funds from the PWTF to other programs.

UPDATING OUTDATED BID LIMITS

Washington hasn't updated its PUD bid limits since 2008, limiting the ability of PUDs to use PUD crews for project work, including projects that are critical for safety, system reliability, and PUD employee training. Since 2008, labor and materials costs have increased 20% to 100% and a higher proportion of electrical wire is now installed underground, which is typically more expensive than overhead poles and wires, yet the bid limits haven't been updated to reflect the increases in labor and material costs. We support changing the bid limits statutes to align with increases in costs and to clarify what qualifies as equipment under the bid limits statute.

EXPANDING RETAIL BROADBAND AUTHORITY

We support the expansion of conditional retail authority for telecommunications. This would allow PUDs to provide retail telecommunication services if an area is unserved or underserved.

ADOPTING A SENSIBLE CLEAN ENERGY POLICY

We support the least-cost approach to carbon emission reduction. This includes policies that:

- Are adaptable and provide for the smallest financial impact to PUD customers;
- Allow any electric-sector revenues from a price on carbon to be retained by PUDs and other utilities ("recycled") to reduce rate impacts and for investment in energy conservation and carbon reduction activities; and
- Promote the efficient use and development of all carbon-free resources, including hydropower.

For more information, please visit the Washington PUD Association at <https://www.wpuda.org/pud-issues-and-information>, or email the PUD's Communications and Public Contracts Manager, Kenna Tornow, at Communications@popud.org.



2019 Federal Legislative Priorities

Protecting the Public's Investment in the Federal Hydropower System

We support maintaining a robust federal hydropower system, including the following:

- House Resolution 3144, which ensures the best available science remains in place to protect salmon and maintain the value of our clean hydropower resources;
- Regional efforts to ensure Washington State continues to realize the value of Bonneville Power Administration resources;
- A modernized Columbia River Treaty with a rebalanced Canadian Entitlement;
- Continued efforts to simplify and streamline FERC's hydro licensing process.

Preserving Pole Attachment Rate Authority

We support preserving PUD utility pole attachment rates charged to telecommunications companies to attach equipment to utility poles that are just, reasonable, non-discriminatory, and sufficient to recover PUD costs.

CONTINUING TAX-EXEMPT MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY

We support the continuation of tax exempt municipal bond authority. This authority allows for low-cost financing of mandatory capital improvement projects.

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