



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD
GENERAL MANAGER'S DIVISION

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Farmer, Brown, Cassidy, Cunningham, and Ernst
FROM: Randy Berggren
DATE: December 28, 2009
SUBJECT: Memberships

I am following up on a request made by Commissioner Ernst in November that the board approve a pledge by the NW Energy Coalition (NWEC). After receiving the pledge document it was apparent the pledge that Commissioner Ernst was requesting is part of a utility application that commits EWEB to a full membership in NW Energy Coalition for the year. I originally had assumed it was a pledge in principle to a particular priority for the organization. As a result there is no alternate or opposing view to be presented to the board as Commissioner Farmer had requested. Instead, we have a budget issue to consider.

Staff made a number of budget reductions in development of the 2010 budget that amounted to nearly \$2 million dollars in non labor O & M expense. Part of those reductions included membership fees in various industry organizations that were considered to be a lower priority for EWEB. Included in those reductions was the NW Energy Coalition membership for \$12,000. In total, there were about \$50 thousand dollars in membership reductions taken in developing the 2010 budget. The NW Energy Coalition membership has had active commissioner participation over the years but has had relatively little staff review or involvement. On several occasions we have reviewed issues of regional concern that were brought forward by NWEC. The membership of this organization is very broad based and has some utility members but considers utility issues as part of a much broader charter of environmental issues in general. As of December 31, 2009, given the budget approved for 2010, EWEB's membership in NW Energy Coalition will expire unless otherwise directed by the board.

I am attaching a copy of the membership pledge provided by Commissioner Ernst for your consideration. If approved, the pledge would cause staff to reinstate the annual membership for the NW Energy Coalition at approximately \$12,000 per year and forego the proposed budget reduction on non labor O & M expense by the same amount. Staff continues to believe this membership is a reasonable reduction in expense as presented to the board and that it represents a minimal loss in organizational capability for the 2010 budget period.

If I can answer any additional questions please let me know.

Randy



NW Energy Coalition
for a clean and affordable energy future

UTILITY APPLICATION FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP

Date:

Utility Name:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Email:

Board Representative:

_____ shares the goals of the NW Energy Coalition, a clean and affordable energy future achieved through:

- Energy efficiency
- Environmentally-sound renewable energy
- Low-income weatherization and energy services
- Restoration of fish and wildlife harmed by generation or transmission of electricity
- Consumer protection
- Public participation in energy policy decisions
- Reduction of greenhouse gas pollution consistent with current science.

To further these goals, _____ hereby applies for full utility membership in the NW Energy Coalition.

Signature:

Chair or Chief Executive Officer of _____

Application form revised and approved by the NW Energy Coalition Executive Board on 11/12/2009.