

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

2 INTRODUCED BY A. OLSON

3
4 A RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL
5 CHANGES TO THE OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL POWER MARKETING
6 ADMINISTRATIONS.

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8 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature is concerned about outcomes resulting from Department of Energy
9 Secretary Steven Chu's March 16, 2012, memorandum that may affect Western Area Power Administration and
10 Bonneville Power Administration and its Montana electricity customers; and

11 WHEREAS, the memo states there will be directives issued to the federal Power Marketing Administration
12 administrators related to the broadly stated initiatives contained in the memorandum; and

13 WHEREAS, these directives could harm the nearly 50% of Montanans whose electric bills are based on
14 the underlying preference power from federal Power Marketing Administrations and the Montana Legislature has
15 a stake in the outcome of this initiative; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal Department of Energy asserts it has conducted a "robust" process of public
17 involvement in the development of recommendations to implement the initiatives by holding five public 1-day
18 workshops and six listening sessions in cities across the western United States; and

19 WHEREAS, a committee composed of Western Area Power Administration and Department of Energy
20 employees, known as the Joint Outreach Team, met in nonpublic work sessions to develop its draft
21 recommendations; and

22 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature does not consider these nonpublic Joint Outreach Team meetings
23 either robust or public; and

24 WHEREAS, the Western Area Power Administration has an outstanding history of being an electric
25 industry leader; and

26 WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature is appreciative that the Western Area Power Administration and
27 Department of Energy Joint Outreach Team leaders attended a joint session of the Montana House and Senate
28 energy committees on January 9, 2013, to share the outcomes of their report; and

29 WHEREAS, the Joint Outreach Team is planning to make final recommendations to the Secretary of
30 Energy in January 2013.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That if the final recommendations are consistent with what the Joint Outreach Team leaders shared
3 during their January 9, 2013, visit to Montana, these recommendations would:

4 (1) be much narrower in scope than the present draft report;

5 (2) contain greater recognition of the superb job Western Area Power Administration has done and is
6 doing in the areas covered in the report;

7 (3) ensure change is incremental, not wholesale; and

8 (4) most important, provide economic protections to Montana preference customers.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that although the Montana Legislature supports actions to increase
10 efficiency, actions that create cost shifts to Montana preference customers who have paid their way are
11 unacceptable.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature requests that, in the future, the Department
13 of Energy make a greater effort to notify the Legislature of actions impacting Montana citizens in advance of
14 public hearings rather than leaving the Legislature to first hear about these Department of Energy actions from
15 its constituents.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the members
17 of Montana's Congressional Delegation and to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

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