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## ***Hold down BPA rates, Northwest governors urge; Pursue conservation, aluminum and utility load reductions***

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### **Bonneville Power Administration**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, June 08, 2001**

PR 50 01

*CONTACTS: [Ed Mosey](#) or [Mike Hansen](#), BPA (503) 230-5131*

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**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The four Northwest governors have sent a joint letter to the Bonneville Power Administration supporting actions to avoid huge wholesale rate increases and resulting damage to the Northwest's economy.

"Curtailments of aluminum company operations and cuts in utility purchases of federal power will impose significant costs, but a nearly four-fold increase in BPA rates will do even greater harm to Northwest households and businesses," the governors said.

They urged all Northwest utilities, public and private, to participate in efforts to reduce purchases from BPA, adding that "the only way for it to succeed is if all utilities pledge a comparable reduction."

The executives said they "strongly support" the recent agreement with Alcoa that relieves BPA of the obligation to purchase power for the company's plants while energy prices are too high to allow economical operations. They said the agreement, which compensates idled workers, should be "the template for your agreements with other aluminum companies."

Steve Wright, acting BPA administrator, said he was glad to have the governors' support for BPA's plan to hold new wholesale rates below 100 percent. The new rates will go into effect Oct. 1.

"The load reductions we are urging will be difficult for many utilities to achieve," said Wright. "But the governors clearly think that such efforts will bring the best possible outcome for everyone in the region. We are grateful to them for this strong statement of support."

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