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Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I live in Olympia Washington, I am a licensed professional engineer and a fisheries biologist. I also am a fisherman and I use electricity. I am here to speak on behalf of affordable electricity and wild salmon and steelhead. In the Pacific Northwest, we need both, we should have both, and we can have both. Any suggestion that its either salmon or affordable energy is misleading and wrong.

BPA's wholesale customers are clamoring for lower rates. Despite the fact that BPA has the lowest power rates in the country, it remains under intense pressure to reduce expenses further. Whatever BPA does, however, it should not lower its rates at the expense of doing its job and living up to its responsibilities and public purposes, including the recovery of threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead.

Unfortunately, in the past, whenever BPA has buckled under pressure and lowered its rates, it has turned first to its salmon program, and its renewable energy programs. But both of these are essential elements of BPA's mission. They are not some type of voluntary expense account to draw from when revenues are down or other expenses are up. Plus, investing in these programs now saves money and protects consumers in the slightly longer term.

Despite misleading claims today, BPA's salmon recovery costs are not a significant factor in the average household bill. In 2005, BPA budgeted \$335 million for its total salmon program. Add the cost of court-ordered spill (which helped salmon survival considerably), setting aside the whole argument over BPA's concept of foregone revenue, and you come up with \$408 million in salmon expenses in 2005. For households that get all their energy from BPA, salmon expenses amounted to 6.8% of their total bill. For households that get less of their energy from BPA, salmon expenses raised monthly bills by 1.5-2%, around \$1 per month. This is an amount of money Northwest residents have repeatedly said they would pay for real salmon recovery. Many are willing to pay considerably more.

Last year, despite dire forecasts from BPA about higher rates as a result of the court-ordered summer spill, rates were reduced by nearly 2%.

As BPA sets rates for 2007-2009, it needs to provide full funding to meet its salmon recovery obligations under the law. Dwindling populations of salmon and steelhead are a clear and obvious warning that BPA has not yet met these obligations.



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