

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

2 INTRODUCED BY OLSON, DRISCOLL, LARSEN, DEBBY BARRETT, V. JACKSON, G. JERGESON,
3 C. VINCENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, the Joint Outreach Team is planning to make final recommendations to the Secretary of

1 Energy in January 2013.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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