



**Testimony in Support of
the nomination of Chuck Sams
to the NW Power and Conservation Council
in front of the Senate Committee on
Rules
2 March 2021**

Chair Wagner, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Bissonnette, and I am testifying today on behalf of the NW Energy Coalition. The Coalition is the region's broadest alliance of utilities, businesses, advocates, and communities who are interested in advancing clean, reliable, affordable, equitable energy policy across the Pacific Northwest.

I would like to do two things in my brief remarks. First, I would like to testify in support of the nomination of Chuck Sams to serve as a member of the NW Power and Conservation Council. His background in both the private and non-profit sectors and his history as environmental health and safety officer with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will bring a broad range of perspectives to the council. You will hear more about Mr. Sams' considerable qualifications from others.

Second, I would like to focus my comments on the work in which the council is currently engaged, that is to develop the next regional power plan. One of the key tasks the council undertakes is to create a regional power plan every five years, looking out to a 20-year horizon, considering a wide range of key issues: electricity demand forecast; electricity and natural gas price forecasts; an assessment of the amount of cost-effective energy efficiency that can be acquired over the life of the plan; and a least-cost generating resources portfolio. The plan guides regional utility planning, especially BPA's resource decision making to meet Northwest customers' electricity needs. The Coalition has a long history of being on the forefront advocating for energy efficiency and clean energy solutions within the development of regional power plans.

The 2021 Power Plan is being developed at a time of significant transformation in the electricity sector. As the region seeks to replace the power generated from retiring coal plants, electrify the transportation system, and recover salmon populations, demand-side resources like energy efficiency have never been more important. Oregon council members have a long tradition of being leaders within the council process to ensure that energy efficiency, in particular, is seen as a central resource, primarily because it can be the most cost-effective way to save utilities, businesses, and residents energy and money simultaneously. We hope that Mr. Sams along with the other Oregon council member (and current Council President) Richard Devlin, recognize the importance of the leadership role that stakeholders look for and we look forward to working with them to develop a strong 2021 Power Plan based on low-cost and clean energy investments that are good today as well as being a good long-term investment over the next 20 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We urge your support for Mr. Sams' nomination to the NW Power and Conservation Council. I'm happy to answer questions.