

Submitter: Michael Mercer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2066

Dear Members of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and the Environment,

I am writing you in support of HB 2066.

Over this last summer, residents in our community lost power on numerous occasions, typically associated with marginal wind events. Typically, we saw one, or two power losses each week and the time the power was down was approximately 2 hours. In some cases the power was out for longer periods. Each power outage in the summer has the potential to cost individual residents loss of food, or in winter, the risk of hypothermia, or other health effects. Businesses also risk the loss of food (loss of revenue and cost of food) or as was the case with the opening night of the rodeo, a delay in program and lost revenues associated with that delay.

Beyond the myriad problems associated with power outages, our community has also been hit with rate increases totaling over 30% in the last two years.

A local microgrid in Wallowa County would be like having a back up generator, but would also allow our community to manage expenses and ameliorate the ever increasing demands placed upon the grid.

Thank you for your consideration. Michael P. Mercer