

Congressman Earl Blumenauer is calling on Bonneville Power Administrator Steve Wright to take action and explore every available option to resolve the termination of residential exchange benefits of residential and small farm customers of investor owned utilities.

In response to a recent decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, BPA has notified Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and other utilities that it can no longer use a previously existing agreement to distribute the public benefits of BPA's low-cost hydropower to their customers. As a result, residential and small farm customers of these utilities are expected to see their bills increase between 13 and 14 percent.

Blumenauer said, "It is extremely important the benefits of BPA's power are equitably distributed throughout the Northwest, and I am deeply concerned about the impacts this decision will have on Oregon's residential and small farm customers. I am asking BPA Administrator Steve Wright to act immediately by bringing the parties back to the table and exploring every available option to resolve this issue."