



## **BENTON RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION**

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**Resolution: #2-2-18**

### **A Resolution in Support of the Continued Operation of Columbia Generating Station, a Carbon-Free Source of Affordable Electricity**

**WHEREAS**, over 10,613 members rely on Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) to provide them with a reliable supply of electricity at affordable prices; and

**WHEREAS**, BREA is committed to providing its customers with as much of their electricity from carbon-free generating resources as is economically feasible; and

**WHEREAS**, Energy Northwest is Joint Operating Agency of the state of Washington located on the Hanford Reservation, and is committed to producing electricity from carbon-free generating resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Energy Northwest operates the Columbia Generating Station, a nuclear power plant that is the largest single source of carbon-free electricity in the State of Washington after the state's supply of clean electricity from hydroelectric power located in the Columbia and other rivers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Columbia Generating Station is capable of delivering 1,207 megawatts of continuously available power to the grid, which is sufficient to power a million homes while emitting virtually no greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, the Columbia Generating Station has an exemplary record of safe and reliable operation, producing enough low-cost, carbon-free electricity each year to supply a city the size of Seattle, Wash; and

**WHEREAS**, the replacement of Columbia Generating Station by similarly reliable sources of electricity, such the most efficient natural gas-fired combustion turbines, would add at least 3,000,000 tons of carbon to the atmosphere each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the power generated by the Columbia Generating Station is available regardless of weather conditions, and is therefore well-suited to supplying reliable baseload electricity to support the operation of the power grid baseload and meet demands for capacity as they occur, including backing generation for increasing levels of intermittent renewable wind and solar power; and

**WHEREAS**, the Columbia Generating Station has been an integral part of our community, culture and economy for over thirty years, and currently supports more than 990 family wage jobs in the area, while contributing approximately \$475 million annually to the local and state economy; and

**WHERAS**, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, following extensive safety and environmental reviews, and onsite inspections, found that the Columbia Generating Station can continue to operate safely and reliably through 2043; and

**WHERAS**, the operation of Columbia Generating Station is essential to ensuring that the region's public utility customers receive a continuing supply of affordable, carbon-free electricity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Benton Rural Electric Association call on Energy Northwest to take all possible steps to ensure the continued safe and reliable operation of the Columbia Generating Station, through its lifecycle, to ensure that the Pacific Northwest has a supply of clean electric energy, all in accordance with the directions of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Trustees of the Benton Rural Electric Association on this the 20th day of February, 2018.



Michael Freepons, President

ATTEST:



Mark Platt, Secretary