



Energy and Technology Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

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September 9, 2025

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs – DKE- 7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, OR 97291-4428

Re: Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project

Dear Bonneville Power Administration,

We, the members of the Energy and Technology Interim Committee (ETIC) of the Montana Legislature, write to express our continuing, significant concern regarding electric transmission constraints in and around Montana. It is clear to this committee that we cannot ensure affordable and reliable electricity service in Montana without addressing the major transmission constraints that exist here in the Treasure State and throughout the West. To help alleviate these constraints, ETIC hereby expresses its full support for responsible transmission developments in the region, such as the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) proposed Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project.

Transmission development and upgrades were a major focus for House and Senate energy committees during Montana's 2025 legislative session, which concluded earlier this year. Several pieces of legislation were passed with broad bipartisan support for transmission development and increased capacity. The ETIC is continuing this focus with two transmission-related legislative studies, Senate Joint Resolutions 12 and 21. SJ 12 charges the committee with suggesting specific transmission capacity upgrades and the associated cost-benefit analysis required to maintain a reliable, affordable electric supply for Montana's citizens and industries. This committee believes that BPA's proposed Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project embodies the ethos of this study.

With improved electric transmission connectivity, Montanans can expect access to the lowest-cost and most reliable electricity, even in the most extreme weather conditions. The Montana Legislature is actively seeking solutions that address the issue of the state's aging and

constrained transmission infrastructure, and it is essential that the region's transmission operators do the same.

We appreciate BPA's consideration of the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project and urge the Administration to take an active approach to facilitate the project's timely and cost-effective implementation in a manner that ensures the greatest capacity additions to the system.

Upgrading this existing system will create significant value for Montana consumers while minimizing the time and expense of building major new infrastructure and acquiring new rights-of-way through multiple states.

The majority of the ETIC voted to offer the committee's support for the Montana-to-Washington Transmission System Upgrade Project. ETIC appreciates BPA's efforts to improve the reliability and affordability of Montana's electric grid and eagerly awaits the project's implementation.

We hope this support aids BPA in its endeavors,

Sincerely,

/s/ Members of the 2025-2026 Montana Energy and Technology Interim Committee

CC:

Senator Steve Daines

Senator Tim Sheehy

Representative Ryan Zinke

Representative Troy Downing