

**A RESOLUTION *of the* MEMBERS
of the JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE
of the WYOMING LEGISLATURE**

A RESOLUTION in opposition to Rocky Mountain Power's proposed electric rate hikes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE:

WHEREAS The State of Wyoming is composed of residents from a diverse range of socioeconomic backgrounds, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet in the face of high energy costs; and

WHEREAS in addition to staggering utility bills, inflation burdens Wyoming residents with escalating costs of essentials such as food, medicine, transportation, and housing and many residents and businesses are continuing to recover from the effects of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS our nation's electric utility grid is undergoing dramatic change as reliance on reliable dispatchable energy sources is reduced. The change is raising concerns about the dependability and cost of new generation methods and the speed by which this transition is undertaken; and

WHEREAS Rocky Mountain power serves five states with Wyoming constituting only fifteen percent of the demand of those five states but an overwhelming portion of past, current, and future generation; and

WHEREAS Wyoming has some of the most unspoiled landscapes and intact ecosystems in the lower forty-eight states; and

WHEREAS the transition to renewable energy supplies has dramatic impacts forcing Wyoming to sacrifice our landscapes for the benefit of California, Oregon, and Washington who demand the power are reluctant to place these resources closer to them or pay for the impacts they cause to our beautiful state; and

WHEREAS Wyoming is inadequately compensated for the placement of these renewable resources on our landscape; and

WHEREAS Rocky Mountain Power has submitted a proposal to increase electricity rates for its customers in Wyoming, which would result in a significant financial burden on our citizens, particularly those on fixed or low incomes; and

WHEREAS the Rocky Mountain Power proposal requires the citizen ratepayers of Wyoming to pay for the cost of new transmission through its proposed rate increase to its customers in Wyoming; and

WHEREAS access to reliable and affordable electricity is vital for the well-being and economic prosperity of our state, and any substantial rate increase threatens to hinder the growth and development of Wyoming's communities; and

WHEREAS Wyoming's industrial businesses represent a larger portion of the customer base than in any other state, these critical national industries need reliable and competitively priced power to thrive in a world of subsidized global competitors; and

WHEREAS Rocky Mountain Power is a regulated utility provider operating within our state, and the Public Service Commission is entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that rates charged by utility companies are just, reasonable, and in the public interest; and

WHEREAS the proposed rate increase, if approved, would disproportionately affect Wyoming's rural and underserved communities, potentially forcing families and businesses to make difficult choices between meeting their basic needs and paying their electricity bills.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1 that we oppose Rocky Mountain Power's proposed rate increase as detrimental to the well-being of our constituents and contrary to the public interest.

SECTION 2 that we call upon the Public Service Commission to conduct a thorough and transparent review of Rocky Mountain Power's rate increase proposal, taking into consideration the impact it would have on Wyoming residents, businesses, and our state's overall economic stability.

SECTION 3 that we urge the Public Service Commission to actively seek alternatives and solutions that would mitigate the financial burden on ratepayers while ensuring that Rocky Mountain Power remains a viable and responsible utility provider in our state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Public Service Commission, Rocky Mountain Power, and all relevant stakeholders, expressing the strong opposition of the Joint Corporations, Elections, and Political Subdivisions Committee of the Wyoming Legislature to the proposed rate increase.

We believe that it is our duty to protect the interests of Wyoming's citizens and businesses, and we trust that the Public Service Commission will act in the best interests of our state's residents during its review of this proposal.

APPROVED BY THE JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE OF THE WYOMING LEGISLATURE ON THE 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.

CHAIRMEN

REPRESENTATIVE JARED OLSEN

SENATOR CALE CASE, PHD