

Washington Report

APPA, Members Sign White House Ratepayer Protection Pledge

American Public Power Association President & CEO Scott Corwin on July 23 participated in a White House event to reaffirm public power utilities' commitment to ensuring customers are not burdened with costs caused by infrastructure investment to meet growing data center demand. "We are pleased to be a signatory to the Ratepayer Protection Pledge on behalf of public power, which aligns with our position that other utility customers should not bear the brunt of the costs of serving data centers," said Corwin. Along with APPA, more than 15 APPA members signed [the pledge](#).

Members of APPA's PMC Gather to Advocate for Public Power Priorities

Public power leaders from across the U.S. gathered in July in Washington, D.C., for the APPA Policy Makers Council's annual fly-in. On July 14, PMC members convened in APPA's headquarters in Arlington, Va., where they discussed various legislative and regulatory priorities. Scott Corwin, President and CEO of APPA, participated in the meetings. PMC members headed to Capitol Hill on July 15 to advocate for [key policy priorities](#) in meetings with their House and Senate members.

Senators Send Wildfire Risk Reduction Letter to Key Federal Agencies

Senator Tim Sheehy (R-MT), joined by fourteen of his Republican colleagues, on July 30 sent a letter to the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior urging action to reduce wildfire risk. [The letter](#) encourages the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to use existing authorities under section 512 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act to improve right-of-way maintenance for electric infrastructure on public lands and forests.

Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act Introduced in the Senate

Senators Steve Daines (R-MT), Jim Risch (R-ID), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) on July 21 introduced the Hydropower Licensing Affordability Act. The bill would amend sections 4(e) and 18 of the Federal Power Act to clarify that mandatory conditions for the licensing of non-federal hydropower projects must be limited to those that are necessary to reasonably mitigate the direct adverse effects of a project on federal reservations and fish populations, respectively. Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-OR) introduced the companion bill ([H.R. 9337](#)) in the House, which APPA supports as outlined in a letter sent to leaders of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. A [similar letter](#) was sent to leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

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