

## Schrepel, Eric

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**From:** JeffMerkley  
**Sent:** Friday, April 23, 2004 9:57 AM  
**To:** Jenkins, Kris  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Comment: Emphasize Renewable Energy

Dear BPA Officials:

I am writing to comment on the paper the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC) prepared on the future role of BPA.

Specifically, NPCC appears to foresee virtually no role for BPA in developing or acquiring energy from renewable projects.

I think that this is a mistake. This is precisely the time that BPA should be encouraging the development of new supplies of renewable energy. This will help make sure that we aren't overly reliant on natural gas or hydro and the inherent risks for increases in the price of natural gas and the possibility of drought affecting hydro.

In addition, some sources of renewable power, such as wind, could be a significant boost to our rural economies and should be thoroughly examined.

It is my understanding that BPA has a statutory responsibility to encourage the development of renewable resources and I hope that BPA will fully honor this responsibility. It would be shortsighted, given BPA's enormous capability, for BPA to reduce this role to one of short-term cost-benefit analysis that doesn't take into account the longterm challenge in which the demand for energy will grow and the supply of gas and hydro will not.

Sincerely,

Representative Jeff Merkley  
Oregon House Democratic Leader