



2025 Proposed TPU Federal Legislative Priorities and Policies

Proposed Federal Legislative Priorities

1. *Agency Wide*

- a. **Infrastructure Financing Tools:** Maintain legislation that promotes the availability of tax-exempt municipal bonds, including legislation that restores the tax-exempt status of advance refund bonds.
- b. **Limited Income Programs:** Support policies and additional funding for programs that help limited-income customers.
- c. **Supply Chain Solutions:** Support policies that adequately address supply chain issues that affect customers and utility operations.

2. *Tacoma Power*

- a. **BPA's Competitiveness:** Continue to support federal proposals to maintain and improve BPA's cost competitiveness.
- b. **Carbon Reduction:** Actively engage in and seek to support proposals that decarbonize the economy at reasonable costs. Support policies that recognize hydropower as a carbon-free generating resource.
- c. **Zero Emission Transportation Infrastructure:** Support additional funding for zero emission transportation infrastructure.
- d. **Maintain Pole Attachment Authority:** Support legislation that ensures municipally owned utilities main their historic authority to safely manage attachments on utility poles.
- e. **Update Re-Licensing Policies:** Support streamlining the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's hydropower relicensing efforts and policies.

3. *Tacoma Water*

- a. **Howard Hanson Dam:** Support and protect federal funding, and action to complete the Dam and additional water storage project while ensuring current cost-sharing agreements are honored. The Howard Hanson Dam fish passage and the additional water storage project are critical to salmon and orca recovery as a construction ready project with broad impact.
- b. **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA):** Support appropriations to fully fund the legislation.
- c. **Drinking Water State Fund:** Support adequate appropriations to support the fund.
- d. **PFAS Liability:** Support legislation that exempts drinking water systems from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as it relates to PFAS liability.

4. *Tacoma Rail*

- a. **Infrastructure Funding:** Pursue funding opportunities for investments in locomotive modernization, track upgrades, decarbonization projects, and other improvements.



Proposed Federal Legislative Policies

General Comprehensive Policies

- TPU supports prioritization of equity and anti-racist transformation in policymaking.
- TPU supports consistency between federal, state, and regional policies affecting utilities.
- TPU supports economically sound policies that encourage and reward energy and water conservation that enhance efficiencies in utility delivery and use.
- TPU supports programs that assist limited-income customers.
- TPU supports policies for protection of the natural environment, including stream protection, that supports public stewardship of fishery resources and wildlife habitat.

General Federal Policies

- TPU supports policies that maintain and protect tax-exempt financing for publicly owned utilities.
- TPU supports federal cybersecurity policies that complement utility actions to prevent cyberattacks.

Tacoma **Power** Federal Policies

- TPU supports retention of primary authority for energy reliability with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).
- TPU supports efficiencies and streamlining of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydropower licensing and relicensing policies.
- TPU supports reasonable regulation of trading markets, under the Dodd-Frank Act, and accommodations for utilities by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).
- TPU supports regional power markets that provide additional services and value to our customers.
- TPU supports modifications to, or related to, the Columbia River Treaty that would equitably distribute the power benefits gained from the Treaty between the United States and Canada.
- TPU supports policies that appropriately acknowledge and credit on-going ratepayer investments in emission free hydropower generating resources.
- TPU supports federal transmission policies that ensure reliable service and reasonable cost allocation for our customers.
- TPU supports federal actions increasing the parity of hydropower with other renewables, including tax credits to improve environmental and dam safety investments.



Tacoma Water Federal Policies

- TPU supports adequate funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA).
- TPU supports adequate funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).
- TPU supports maintenance, enforcement, and funding of federal commitments related to the Howard Hanson Dam and downstream fish passage.
- TPU supports legislation and adequate funding that exempts drinking water systems from the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) as it relates to PFAS liability. TPU also supports the Polluters Pay principle which targets polluters and provides a liability protections for water utilities that are impacted by PFAS.

Tacoma Rail Federal Policies

- TPU supports retention and expansion of federal policies that would lead to infrastructure maintenance and construction, such as inclusion of funding programs for short-line rail infrastructure in the Federal Surface Transportation Re-Authorization Act, the tax code (45G), or in stand-alone legislation.

Questions?

Lauren Adler
Federal Relations Manager
(253) 260-0440 cell
ladler@cityoftacoma.org