

## BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the matter of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of its Proposed Electric Service Schedules and Electric Service Regulations	Docket No. 03-2035-02 Light and Truth Supplemental Direct Testimony of Paul F. Mecham Exhibit Light and Truth 2.0 December 31, 2003
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Earlier in this docket, Light and Truth filed 18 pages of testimony along with 132 pages of supporting attachments. This brief testimony of one page of text and a table on one attached page address one paragraph in the proposed stipulation on rate spread.

Light and Truth attended and participated in all the sessions held by the negotiating group that signed the rate spread Stipulation. Light and Truth supports all of the Stipulation made by the other parties except Paragraph 14 on the HELP Program. No good reason has been presented to not review HELP in this docket or to delay that review beyond this docket. HELP was proposed in a rate docket and implemented in a rate docket. This rate docket is an appropriate place to take the next step.

In light and Truth's observation, parties in the Stipulation negotiations other than the HELP advocates did not really support the Stipulation's HELP paragraph because of its content. Most didn't know enough about the Program to judge its merits. In the time pressure it appeared that the interest was in disposing of the HELP issue and proceeding with the Stipulation. Light and Truth offered several reasonable compromises relative to HELP and other social issues. Being reasonable didn't work. The approximately 580,000 rate-paying donors to the HELP Program for whom Light and Truth was speaking were (to coin a couple of words) outselfished and outbiased by the other parties.

There is already more than enough data on the record to evaluate HELP. Light and Truth has not only submitted its testimony (containing appropriate extracts of the studies on record) but has also submitted data requests to parties that have openly supported HELP in the past. Despite repeated requests for it, the advocates have placed no statistically valid data on the record supporting their claims during the five years since they first made the claims in the creation of the HELP program. The attached history table shows this. It is probable that the pending data responses (if responses are provided) will show nothing new. The only result of a delay will be more money extorted<sup>1</sup> from the 580,000 involuntary donors. The attached table shows the total taken to date exceeds \$6,000,000.

To the best of Light and Truth's knowledge, no party other than Light and Truth has spoken in behalf of or in support of the interests of the 580,000 involuntary donors to the HELP program. This has been true from the original rate case that created the Low-Income Task Force, through that Task Force, through the following rate cases, through the R. W. Beck consulting, through the various reports to the Commission, up to and including the recent Stipulation negotiations. Any parties other than Light and Truth who spoke about the 580,000 involuntary donors were simply using the involuntary donors as a source from whom to extort funds.

Please do not delay consideration of HELP. Justice delayed is justice denied. If the Commission chooses to delay HELP consideration beyond this docket, Light and Truth requests that the Commission immediately order (orally from the bench if needed), the change of Docket 03-035-01 from informal to formal and simultaneously calendar a scheduling conference for Docket 03-035-01.

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<sup>1</sup> From Webster's II New College Dictionary: "extort... to obtain by coercive means, as threats or intimidation..."  
Translated and paraphrased: Make this HELP donation or your electric power gets turned off.