

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1233

To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2015

Mr. WYDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to expand the electric rate-setting authority of States.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “PURPA’s Legislative  
5       Upgrade to State Authority Act” or “PURPA PLUS  
6       Act”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       Congress finds that—

9               (1) section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory  
10       Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a-3)—

1 (A) established a new class of nonutility  
2 generators known as “qualifying cogeneration  
3 facilities” and “qualifying small power produc-  
4 tion facilities”; and

5 (B) encouraged the development of alter-  
6 nate sources of energy with the requirement  
7 that utilities purchase energy offered by quali-  
8 fying facilities;

9 (2) since the date of enactment of that section,  
10 materials and designs for qualifying facility tech-  
11 nologies have advanced and placed renewable re-  
12 sources and cogeneration facilities within the reach  
13 of more consumers, including technologies such as—

14 (A) solar photovoltaic panels;

15 (B) small wind turbines;

16 (C) storage technologies to support renew-  
17 able energy;

18 (D) small hydroelectric generators on exist-  
19 ing dams, diversions, and conduits;

20 (E) hydrokinetic generators;

21 (F) gas microturbines;

22 (G) steam-cycle turbines;

23 (H) Stirling engines;

24 (I) fuel cells; and

25 (J) biomass boilers;

