



**Northwest
Regional Planning
Commission**

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TO: House Committee on Energy and Digital Infrastructure
FROM: Catherine Dimitruk, Executive Director
RE: 26-0781
DATE: February 25, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to present feedback on the draft committee bill 26-0781 and the proposed additions by the Department of Public Service, presented to the Committee February 24, 2026. This memo summarizes the key points made in my testimony today.

The Department of Public Service (DPS) collaborated with the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) when developing the language presented to the Committee and I support the addition of this language to 26-0781. The proposed changes focus on process only, and do not modify policy. In short the changes will:

1. Allow an addition year after adoption of the state Comprehensive Energy Plan for DPS to develop the required energy plan standards. This additional time provides opportunity for a more thoughtful and collaborative process.
2. Align the timelines of the Land Use Review Board and the Department of Public Service when they are reviewing regional plans. This will be more efficient and will help RPCs get comments as early in the process as possible.
3. Allow DPS to rely on the RPC's required public hearings rather than hold their own after the plan is adopted. This will be more efficient and will incorporate public comment during a time when the plan is still in draft form.
4. Allow for 'provisional approval' to cover the gap from when a plan is adopted by the town or RPC to when it is approved by the RPC (local plans) or DPS (regional plans).
5. Allow DPS to determine that a newly adopted regional plan does not need a new 'positive determination of energy compliance' if the enhanced energy plan was not changed. This is important because all RPCs are updating parts of their regional plans by December 2026 to comply with Act 181.

As noted, we will be following up shortly with some suggested changes to paragraph (h)2 on page 9 of the DPS proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for considering the request to make these changes. I am happy to answer any further questions.