



## **Sample op-ed in support of tax-exempt financing during Public Power Week 2020**

[Name of utility] will be celebrating Public Power Week Oct. 4-10. Public Power Week is an annual national celebration to recognize the contribution that community-owned, not-for-profit electric utilities make to the economy and their customers' well-being by providing clean, reliable, safe, and affordable power.

[Name of utility] and other public power utilities throughout the country issue billions of dollars in municipal bonds every year to finance the capital projects such as power plants and power plant upgrades, substations, transmission and distribution lines, smart grid equipment, [insert example of project funded by bond issuance]. These projects make sure that the lights turn on and stay on.

Meanwhile, some want to impose a federal tax on municipal bonds because they believe Washington can spend the money better or because they want to pressure state and local governments to privatize critical public services. Both amount to federal interference in local decision-making that would drive up costs to consumers.

### ***ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR LONGER OP-ED***

INSERT INFORMATION ON RATES AND/OR RELIABILITY COMPARABILITY NEIGHBORING UTILITY (IF AVIALABLE).

That's great news for the xx,000 homes and x,000 businesses served by [Name of utility].

In fact, nationwide customers served by public power utilities pay rates ten percent lower, on average, than those served by investor-owned utilities. They face fewer outages, again on average, and when there is an outage, the outages are shorter.

### ***END ADDITIONAL MATERIALS***

Simply put, municipal bonds build public power, and public power powers our community's homes and businesses. We need to tell our locally elected representatives to leave the current exclusion for municipal bonds interest in place.