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Chelan County PUD General Manager receives national public power award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 — Steve Wright, general manager of Chelan County PUD in Wenatchee, Washington, received the Alan Richardson Statesmanship Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The award honors public power leaders who work to achieve consensus on national issues important to public power utilities.

Steve has worked with industry associations including APPA for the last twelve years. In the past year, he has presented to groups such as the Public Power Council, the Northwest Hydropower Association, the Keystone Energy Board, and other associations in support of APPA and public power. Wright has strongly advocated for the advancement of APPA positions on key topics, including hydropower relicensing, energy efficiency and climate change. Working closely with the Northwest Congressional Delegation and a broad collection of regional stakeholders, Wright has also cultivated a unified voice in the Northwest for ongoing Columbia River Treaty negotiations. Steve is mindful of public power customers' interests and what protects the long-term stability of the region. He also holds leadership positions on multiple boards, including the APPA and the Alliance to Save Energy. Wright has served on the Steering Committee of the Large Public Power Council, and he is a past Chair of the Public Generating Pool. Steve is a strong advocate for public power, as well as a thoughtful and courageous leader, willing to question conventional wisdom in search of long-term solutions that advance the public interest.

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The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 93,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.