

Testimony of Trent L. Clark
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Before the Joint Interim Committee on
Energy, Environment and Technology

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Mssrs. Co-Chairs. Please consider the following pronouncements by the world's foremost commentators on energy policy:

Energy is a crucial ingredient for economic development.

– Bihemo Kimasa, *The Role of Energy in Economic Growth*, December 26, 2010, p. 1.¹

Secure, reliable and **affordable energy sources are fundamental** to economic stability and development.

- Paul Bulteel, Union of the Electricity Industry, and Pantelis Capros, Professor at National Technical University of Athens, World Energy Congress²

The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recognized the explicit link between access to energy services and poverty reduction. . . .**Energy services** such as lighting, heating, cooking, motive power, mechanical power, transport and telecommunications **are essential for socio-economic development**, since they yield social benefits and support income and employment generation.

- United Nations Human Habitat Conference, Keynote Paper, June 22, 2005³

Energy used per unit of economic output has declined, but that this is to a large extent due to a shift in energy use from direct use of fossil fuels such as coal to the use of higher quality fuels,

¹ The process of converting economic inputs – capital, labor, and various forms of energy such as oil, coal etc – into economic outputs such as manufactured goods and services can be expressed using an equation called *production function*. <http://vijana.fm/2010/12/26/the-role-of-energy-in-economic-growth-2/>

² <http://www.worldenergy.org/documents/p001469.pdf>

³http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/920_88725_The%20Energy%20challenge%20for%20achieving%20the%20millenium%20development%20goals.pdf

Testimony of T. Clark, P. 2

and especially electricity. When this shift in the composition of final energy use is taken into account **energy use and the level of economic activity are found to be tightly coupled.**

- David I. Stern, *Energy and Economic Growth*, April 2003⁴

Clearly, the inability to pay **high energy costs** is a threat to the achievement of all of the Millennium Development Goals. It **holds back economic growth and job creation.** The answer is to provide access to affordable energy for all.

- Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General, 10 October 2011⁵

I present these quotations to you in hopes of convincing you that no policy right now is more intrinsic to basic task of getting Idahoans back to work, in secure, decent-paying jobs, than to assure Idahoans access to affordable energy. That being the case, I would sincerely hope the Interim Committee would allow for more public input and statewide discussion of this policy than what we have had to date. I respectfully request that the plan be open for public comment for at least another six weeks so as to allow a broad cross-section of the state to fully digest and provide meaningful commentary on a plan that may be the critical link to our state's future prosperity.

Thank you.

⁴ <http://www.localenergy.org/pdfs/Document%20Library/Stern%20Energy%20and%20Economic%20Growth.pdf>.
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⁵ <http://www.iea.org/weo/leaders.asp>