



## THE IDAHO ENERGY COLLABORATIVE

SHAPING IDAHO'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

State of Idaho Legislature  
Energy, Environment, and Technology Interim Committee

November 18, 2011

Members of the Interim Committee on Energy, Environment, and Technology:

This letter is respectfully submitted by the Idaho Energy Collaborative as collective public input regarding the update of the 2007 Idaho Energy Plan and the newly released draft of the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan produced by the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance (ISEA).

The Idaho Energy Collaborative is an action-oriented group of nearly 30 non-profit organizations, businesses, and energy advocates—representing over 1,000 members, employees, and individuals—striving to create positive policy changes related to energy in Idaho. Collaborative members represent a diverse range of expertise, creating a rich forum for resource sharing and cooperation toward reaching common goals.

In 2009 the Collaborative gathered nearly 2,000 signatures from Idaho citizens urging legislators to implement the energy efficiency and renewable energy recommendations in the state's 2007 Energy Plan. The petition was presented to the Senate State Affairs and House Energy, Environment, and Technology Committees during the 2010 Legislative Session.

The Collaborative appreciates that the Interim Energy Committee is updating the 2007 Plan, and we were honored to welcome the co-chairs of this Committee to our Oct. 19 meeting to discuss the Plan. We were pleased to learn that after that meeting the Committee announced it would extend the comment period until Nov. 4 and hold a Nov. 2 meeting to accept public comments, and also that it would distribute a press release to ensure that more Idahoans were aware of the public comment opportunity. It was excellent to hear about the second comment deadline extension to Nov. 18, as well. We appreciate your hearing our concerns and making the Energy Plan revision process as open and public as possible.

The draft 2012 Energy Plan that you are currently reviewing has changed and in some cases eliminated many of the 2007 Energy Plan policies and action items that we as a group have been actively promoting for more than three years. These include **maintaining energy efficiency, our lowest-cost resource and the one prioritized in the NWPCC's regional 6<sup>th</sup> Power Plan, as the "highest priority resource" followed by renewable energy; encouraging customer-owned renewable energy generation; and preserving incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy.** We ask that you retain all of these recommendations for the benefit of Idaho citizens and businesses, and that you consider adding important new items such as support for a consumer advocate position to represent residential and small business customers in cases before the PUC.

The Idaho Energy Collaborative envisions a future in which our energy needs are met with cleaner, safer, affordable energy solutions, with an emphasis on energy conservation, energy



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efficiency, and the development of local renewable energy sources. In this future, Idaho will create jobs, support local economies, and gain energy independence and security. The Idaho Energy Collaborative urges this Committee to prioritize these aims in the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan and further put those recommendations into action during the coming legislative session. We will continue to monitor the status of the Plan policies and action items and look forward to participating as the state embarks on the full implementation of this robust planning document.

Thank you for reading our comments, and for the time and effort you've spent on this endeavor. You will be receiving comments from many of the Collaborative's individual businesses and organizations, as well, that we hope you will consider wholeheartedly. This group offers a wealth of experience and information in the energy field, and we are always happy to be a resource for this Committee and the Legislature as a whole.

Sincerely,

The Idaho Energy Collaborative