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League of Women Voters of Idaho

November 3, 2011

TO: Interim Committee on Energy, Environment and Technology
RE: Draft 2012 Energy Plan
FROM: League of Women Voters of Idaho
Kathryn Bonzo, Susan Steele Co-Spokespersons

The Idaho League of Women Voters commends the Committee on the work that has been done to update Idaho's Energy Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to offer some comments on the League's position on energy as it applies to this new plan.

The League agrees that this plan should "focus on secure, stable and cost-effective energy supply, heightened outreach to enhance a broad and comprehensive knowledge concerning energy issues and opportunities..." as stated in the Committee's submittal letter.

Our position is that conservation continues to be the best way to benefit our state and its people, as it is a significant source of additional energy, without the need to build more generation facilities. Therefore, we think conservation should continue to be listed as a highest priority.

To this end, the goal of "enhancing our collective Energy IQ" has great merit. Since it is in our state's businesses and citizens' own self-interest to conserve energy, therefore, education about what energy is and the costs and benefits of its production and use should be a priority.

The League also agrees that Idaho should continue participating in regional efforts aimed at increasing the capability of the western transmission grid and bringing to Idaho the benefits of cost-effective remote resources.

Thank you for your work, and for allowing us to comment.

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