

October 31, 2011

Members of the Energy, Environment, & Technology Interim Committee,

I wish to thank the members of the Interim Committee for providing the opportunity to comment on the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan.

I believe it is important for Idaho to have and implement an energy plan to ensure a reliable, secure, and affordable energy system for the citizens of Idaho and its businesses. Energy efficiency and conservation are the typically the lowest cost and most effective methods of reducing energy consumption. With this in mind, I would like to suggest two potential actions for inclusion in the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan.

(1) Idaho should review international building codes on a three year cycle for building efficiency standards, should adopt those portions of the codes that are cost effective for implementation in residential and commercial buildings, and should provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions for their implementation.

Requiring that new buildings meet these energy efficiency requirements will result in gradual but significant reductions in energy consumption that last the lifetime of the buildings. Adoption of cost effective requirements can usually be made at modest (and sometimes no) expense and pay for themselves multiple times.

(2) Idaho should consider energy savings as an important component in urban, highway, and mass transit planning.

Implementation of cost effective measures in urban, highway, and mass transit planning can result in significant reductions of transportation fuel usage and air quality impacts by reducing average transportation distances, times, and vehicle idling.

Yours truly,

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