

Mr. Nugent

Members of the Energy, Environment & Technology Committee

Thank you for this opportunity.

It is my belief that as a general rule the public is best served by keeping energy rates as low as possible. This however must be balanced with reliability which in the past has been very good in the Treasure Valley.

PURPA rates I think have a place in order to encourage new technology to gain a foothold in the marketplace but should be limited in scope and phased out after 5 or 10 years of a projects inception..

The sudden emergence of Natural gas as a reliable cheap fuel has changed the whole equation, and presented us with unprecedented opportunity

While Idaho Power is building an additional natural gas plant near New Plymouth for our electrical needs we are overlooking the huge benefits of it's use as a transportation fuel. I would propose that State guarantees on new CNG stations along the Interstate and in North Idaho served by Natural gas lines would be a good use of taxpayer money as long as limits were put on it both as to amount and time frame. Govt. vehicles should be purchased with CNG capability. The current price at Allied Waste's two CNG stations in the Boise Valley is \$1.66/ gallon gas equivalent.

To summarize cheaper is better both for job creation and livability as long as it is reliable. I also believe govt. and the PUC should be encouraged to help fund startups and sources not now used but this should be limited both as to amount and time frame.

Thank you for reading this

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