



www.idahoconservation.org

Idaho Conservation League

*PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83701
208.345.6933*

Testimony of Jonathan Oppenheimer, Senior Conservation Associate, Idaho Conservation League

TO: House Committee on Energy, Environment and Technology

DATE: March 8, 2016

RE: Consideration of Senate Bill 1238

Thanks and Intro

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of SB 1238.

As you heard previously, the Idaho DEQ has developed rules by which they will administer permits under the Clean Water Act. Specifically, the Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System program will authorize discharges of pollutants into Idaho waters.

Under federal law, the rules must be as protective as existing federal rules under the national permitting program. At the same time, the rules can be no more restrictive. As such, it is a delicate balancing act that deserves ongoing scrutiny and attention.

The statutory changes before you today prevent regulated industries from deciding appeals related to the IPDES program. This is a necessary and appropriate change and one that will ensure that appellants or other aggrieved parties will be considered by impartial parties. This is a sensible change and deserves your support.