

Attachment I

Rebecca Casper
City of Idaho Falls, Mayor

- As the Mayor of Idaho Falls, and a long-time resident of eastern Idaho, I have seen firsthand the benefit of INL to our state and our region.
- The benefits are many, and all of them will be protected and enhanced by the construction of the two new facilities that are the focus of the Resolution before you.
- First – INL provides to our economy highly-skilled jobs – jobs that pay high wages and offer good benefits. In fact, INL’s average wage for its roughly 4,100 workers is about \$92,000 per year.
- Second – INL provides thousands for more indirect jobs to our economy and economic benefits beyond just adding up salaries and benefits.
- Third – INL’s significant connections to our universities, and to a future community college in Idaho Falls, allows our institutions of higher education to enhance their own capabilities. It gives Idaho’s colleges and universities, and their students access to educational and research opportunities that otherwise would not be available.
- Fourth – the relationships between our institutions of higher learning and INL help build a talent pipeline in our state. That talent pipeline is critical not only to INL – but to a wide range of businesses across the state.
- Fifth – businesses looking to expand in Idaho, or to relocate to Idaho, are looking first and foremost at whether or not a state or locality can meet their workforce needs. State and localities that work aggressively to create a talent pipeline are often first in line to win a new business and the tax benefits, charitable and community giving, volunteer efforts, and vibrant community benefits that come along with it.
- Those are all reasons why it is important that we invest in, protect, and grow INL where and when we can.
- Each of the benefits I have mentioned so far will be enhanced by the state/INL collaboration that is the genesis of the Resolution before you.
- I want to mention one other point that sticks out to me.
- In addition to being the Mayor of Idaho Falls, I sit on the Board of the Energy Communities Alliance – an organization of communities and regions that host DOE sites across the country.