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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 736

BY REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION; REPEALING SECTION 63-205B, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF OPERATING PROPERTY OF RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES; AMENDING SECTION 63-405, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF OPERATING PROPERTY; AMENDING SECTION 63-6020, IDAHO CODE, TO LIMIT THE APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 63-602JJ, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PRO-VISIONS REGARDING PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES; AMENDING SECTION 63-603, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DETERMINATION OF PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AMOUNTS; AMENDING SECTION 63-3502B, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE LEVY OF TAX ON CERTAIN ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION AND RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES; AMENDING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 63, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 63-3502C, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE EXEMPTION OF THE KILOWATT-HOUR TAX FOR ELECTRICITY USED IN IRRIGATION; AMEND-ING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 63, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 63-3503C, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING FILING OF AN OPERATOR'S STATEMENT AND THE CALCULATION, COLLECTION, ALLOTMENT, AND APPORTIONMENT OF TAX DUE FROM RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPA-NIES BY THE STATE TAX COMMISSION; AMENDING SECTION 63-3506, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY BY ASSESSOR;

24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1. That Section $\underline{63-205B}$, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. That Section 63-405, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 63-405. ASSESSMENT OF OPERATING PROPERTY. (1) The state tax commission must assess all taxable operating property at a meeting of the commission convening on the second Monday of August in each year, and must complete the assessment of such property on the fourth Monday in August.
- (2) The state tax commission shall determine the system value and calculate the allocation and apportionment of the system value for $\frac{all}{all}$ operating property and specifically determine:
 - (a) The number of miles and the value per mile of each railroad in the state and for each taxing district in which such railroad may exist.
 - (b) The number of miles and the value per mile of each telephone corporation in the state and for each taxing district in which such telephone corporation may exist.

- (c) The number of miles and the value per mile of each pipeline in the state and for each taxing district in which such pipeline may exist.
- The number of miles and the value per mile of each water company under the jurisdiction of the public utilities commission in the state, and for each taxing district in which such water company may exist. The value per mile of any line included in this subsection, except railroads, shall be determined by dividing the total value of such line within the state by the number of miles of such line within the state. The value per mile of railroad line shall be determined by apportionment of the total value of line within the state. The apportionment shall be based twenty percent (20%) on the ratio of line miles in the state to line miles in the county; forty percent (40%) on the ratio of net ton miles in the state to net ton miles in the county; and forty percent (40%) on the ratio of station revenues in the state to station revenues in the county. All operating property of railroads shall be apportioned to the counties as part of the railroad line in the county. The apportionment for taxing districts shall be the same as the apportionment among counties.
- (e) The system value, the number of miles and the value per mile of each electric current transmission line and each electric current distribution line in each county separately, and for each taxing district within said county in which such transmission and distribution lines may exist. The value per mile of any line included in this subsection shall be determined by dividing the apportioned value of such line within each county by the number of miles of such line within said county.
- $\frac{\text{(f)}}{\text{(e)}}$ The system value of private railcar fleets entering or standing in Idaho in the year preceding the constituted lien as provided in section 63-411(3), Idaho Code.
- (g) (f) The system value and calculate the allocation and apportionment of the system value for all other taxable operating property.
- (3) On and after January 1, 2004, any newly installed or constructed equipment located within a city corporate limit or within five (5) miles of a city corporate limit and used for and in conjunction with the thermal generation of electricity shall be apportioned based on physical location. For purposes of this subsection newly installed or constructed equipment used for and in conjunction with the thermal generation of electricity shall not include the remodeling, retrofitting, rehabilitation, refurbishing or modification of an existing electrical generation facility, or integration or transformation facilities such as substations or transmission lines. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 63-301A, Idaho Code, property apportioned based on physical location pursuant to this subsection shall be placed on the new construction roll.
- (3) For rate-regulated electric utility companies subject to taxation as provided in section 63-3502B(3), Idaho Code, the state tax commission shall determine the amount of said tax to be apportioned to each county separately in proportion to the property tax levied by all eligible taxing districts and units and amounts allocated to each urban renewal agency statewide in tax year 2024 on the operating property of rate-regulated electric utility companies. The amount to be levied or allocated shall be certified by each county auditor to the state tax commission no later than

 January 6, 2025. The state tax commission shall calculate proportions by dividing the amount so reported by the sum of all such amounts for all eligible taxing districts and units and urban renewal agencies statewide. These proportions shall be reported to each county auditor no later than January 27, 2025. Taxing districts and units and urban renewal agencies are eligible for a proportion of this tax and are included in the calculation of these proportions, provided that they levied property tax against the operating property of electric utility companies or received an allocation of property tax paid by such companies for tax year 2024. No taxing district, urban renewal revenue allocation area, or voter-approved bond or levy created after December 31, 2024, shall be eligible for apportionment under this section. In the event that a taxing district or unit or urban renewal revenue allocation area dissolves or is no longer present in a county, these proportions shall be changed as follows:

- (a) The state tax commission shall reduce the statewide sum of property tax on operating property of rate-regulated electric utility companies certified in January 2025 by the amount levied for the taxing districts and units or allocated to the urban renewal agency for the revenue allocation area no longer in existence in the county.
- (b) The state tax commission shall divide the property tax certified in January 2025 less the amounts subtracted pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection by the reduced statewide sum calculated pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection.
- (c) Proportions determined as a result of the calculation in paragraph (b) of this subsection shall be applied to the kilowatt-hour tax paid by rate-regulated electric utility companies pursuant to section 63-3502B(3), Idaho Code, as of June 30 of the year immediately following the tax year in which the dissolution or other change resulting in a change to these proportions occurs.
- (d) The county auditor shall be notified of any change to these proportions by the second Monday of July.
- (4) If the value of property of any company assessable under this section is of such a nature that it cannot reasonably be apportioned on the basis of rail, wire, pipeline mileage, such as microwave and radio relay stations, the tax commission may adopt such other method or basis of apportionment to the county and taxing districts in which the property is situate as may be feasible and proper.

SECTION 3. That Section 63-6020, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-6020. PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION -- PROPERTY USED FOR GENERATING AND DELIVERING ELECTRICAL POWER FOR IRRIGATION OR DRAINAGE PURPOSES AND PROPERTY USED FOR TRANSMITTING AND DELIVERING NATURAL GAS ENERGY FOR IRRIGATION OR DRAINAGE PURPOSES. The following property is exempt from taxation: property used for generating or delivering electrical power to the extent that such property is used for furnishing power for pumping water for irrigation or drainage purposes on lands in the state of Idaho, and property used for transmitting or delivering natural gas energy to the extent that such property is used for furnishing natural gas energy for pumping water for irrigation or drainage purposes on lands in the state of Idaho. This exemption

shall accrue to the benefit of the consumer of such power, or the consumer of such natural gas energy, except in cases where the water so pumped is sold or rented to irrigate lands, in which event the property used for generating or delivering power, and property used for transmitting or delivering natural gas energy, shall be assessed for taxation to the extent that such water is so sold or rented. The exemption provided in this section does not apply to property exempt pursuant to section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code.

SECTION 4. That Section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 63-602JJ. PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION -- CERTAIN PROPERTY OF PRODUCER OF ELECTRICITY BY MEANS OF WIND, SOLAR OR GEOTHERMAL ENERGY -- RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES. Real estate, fixtures or personal property is exempt from taxation if it is:
- (1) Owned, controlled, operated or managed by an electrical or natural gas association, a rate-regulated electric utility company, or a producer of electricity by means of wind energy, solar energy or geothermal energy, excluding entities that are regulated by the Idaho public utilities commission as to price;
- (2) Held or used in connection with or to facilitate the generation, transmission, distribution, delivery or measuring of electric power, natural gas or electrical energy generated, manufactured or produced by means of wind energy, solar energy or geothermal energy, and all conduits, ducts or other devices, materials, apparatus or property for containing, holding or carrying conductors used for the transmission, distribution and delivery of electric power, natural gas or electric energy generated, manufactured or produced by means of wind energy, solar energy or geothermal energy, including construction tools, materials and supplies; and
- (3) Subject to the taxes on gross <u>earnings of</u> wind, solar, or geothermal energy <u>earnings</u> <u>or rate-regulated electric utility companies</u> pursuant to chapter 35, title 63, Idaho Code, <u>and not subject to assessment by a county</u> assessor pursuant to section 63-402, Idaho Code.
- SECTION 5. That Section 63-603, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 63-603. ELECTRIC <u>COMPANIES</u>, OR GAS, PUBLIC UTILITIES PUMPING WATER FOR IRRIGATION OR DRAINAGE -- REDUCTION OF ASSESSMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXEMPTION -- CREDIT ON CUSTOMERS' BILLS OR PAYMENT TO CONSUMERS. (1) The state tax commission shall, at the time of assessment of the property of any electrical <u>company</u>, or gas, public utility, cooperative organized under the rural electrification administration act of the United States congress, or other company distributing electrical power ("utility") <u>and subject to the exemption pursuant to section 63-6020</u>, Idaho Code, determine the amount of the exemption under section 63-6020, Idaho Code, and shall reduce such assessment so that any such utility shall not be required to pay any property taxes upon that portion of its property so exempted.

The amount of such exemption or reduction by the state tax commission shall be as nearly as practicable, such as would yield the amount of property

taxes included in the rates of such utility under the tariff schedule(s) applicable to the furnishing of such electricity or gas.

- (2) The full amount of property taxes which would have been due from such utility if such exemption had not been made, shall be credited or paid annually, for the year in which the exemption is made, on the electric or gas bill, to the consumer by the utility furnishing such electricity or gas for irrigation purposes.
- (3) If the consumer is not a customer of the deliverer of electrical power or natural gas energy, the full amount of property taxes which would have been due from such utility if such exemption had not been made, shall be paid annually, for the year in which the exemption is made, directly to the consumer by the utility delivering such electricity or gas for irrigation purposes. To qualify for credit or direct payment the person or organization at the point of delivery must also be the person or organization pumping water for irrigation purposes and not a distributor or redistributor of electrical power or natural gas energy.
- (4) For the purposes of determining the benefit to which each consumer is entitled by virtue of this exemption, the following procedure is provided.

To receive the benefit of the exemption under section 63-6020, Idaho Code, and this section, each consumer who is not a customer of the deliverer of electrical power or gas energy must file an application with the state tax commission on or before April 30 each year except that for the year 1993, only such application may be filed on or before June 15. The state tax commission shall prescribe by rule the form and information necessary for such application.

On or before the fifteenth day of November each year, the tax collector of each county shall transmit to the state tax commission, duplicate tax statements of each utility, showing the property taxes payable by such utility in his county. The state tax commission shall as soon as practicable thereafter, certify to each utility, the aggregate saving in property taxes effected in the several counties to each utility by reason of this exemption. On or before the fifteenth day of December of each year, each utility shall file with the state tax commission of Idaho, a statement showing the revenues which were or are to be collected from each irrigation or drainage pumping consumer, and the ratio between the aggregate savings in property taxes certified to it by the state tax commission and the aggregate revenues which were or are to be collected from these consumers. The utility shall determine the credit to which each consumer is entitled by virtue of this exemption and shall certify to the state tax commission that it has refunded or credited against the consumer's bills, the amounts due each consumer. This refund or credit shall equal each consumer's bill for the year multiplied by the ratio calculated pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph. The public utilities commission shall have jurisdiction under the public utilities law to insure utility compliance with the provisions of this statute.

SECTION 6. That Section 63-3502B, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

63-3502B. LEVY OF TAX ON WIND ENERGY <u>PRODUCTION</u>, SOLAR ENERGY OR PRODUCTION, GEOTHERMAL ENERGY ELECTRICAL PRODUCTION, AND RATE-REGULATED

ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES. (1) A wind energy tax or a geothermal energy tax shall be levied against every producer of electricity by means of wind energy or geothermal energy in the amount of three percent (3%) of such producer's gross wind energy earnings or geothermal energy earnings.

- (2) A solar energy tax shall be levied against every producer of electricity by means of solar energy in the amount of three and one-half percent (3.5%) of the producer's gross solar energy earnings.
- (3) A kilowatt-hour tax shall be levied against every rate-regulated electric utility company operating in Idaho on all such electricity and electrical energy sold to retail customers in Idaho. The kilowatt-hour tax shall be one hundred thirteen hundred-thousandths of a dollar (\$0.00113) per kilowatt-hour sold.
- (3) (4) This The wind energy tax, solar energy tax, or geothermal energy tax, and kilowatt-hour tax provided in this section shall be in lieu of all other taxes on the property of such wind energy producer, of such solar energy producer, or of such geothermal energy producer, or rate-regulated electric utility company exempted pursuant to section 63-602JJ, Idaho Code.
- (4) (5) For purposes of the certification required by section 63-803, Idaho Code, and the limitations provided by section 63-802, Idaho Code, the taxes levied pursuant to subsection (2) of this section shall reduce the property tax to be levied to finance an annual budget, and shall not be included in the amount of property tax revenues to finance an annual budget for purposes of limitations on increases in the annual budget as provided in section 63-802, Idaho Code. Kilowatt-hour taxes apportioned to each taxing district pursuant to section 63-405(3), Idaho Code, shall be treated as property tax revenue for the purposes of the limitations provided in section 63-802, Idaho Code.
- (6) No later than January 31, 2025, every rate-regulated electric utility shall include the kilowatt-hour tax assessment on the billings to its Idaho customers, as described in subsection (3) of this section. The amount to be included on the customer bill may not exceed the total determined by multiplying the kilowatt-hours billed by the utility's tax rate in subsection (3) of this section. The public utilities commission shall adjust the base tariff rates for customers to the extent those rates included a recovery of property taxes on operating property or the kilowatt-hour taxes assessed pursuant to this section.
- SECTION 7. That Chapter 35, Title 63, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 63-3502C, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:
- 63-3502C. EXEMPTION OF KILOWATT-HOUR TAX FOR ELECTRICITY USED IN IRRIGATION.
 - (1) (a) The kilowatt-hour tax payable by rate-regulated electric utilities shall be reduced and shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of kilowatt-hours used for furnishing power for pumping water for irrigation or drainage purposes on lands in the state of Idaho. The calculation of the reduction shall be based on rules promulgated by the Idaho state tax commission.
 - (b) The exemption provided for in this section shall accrue to the benefit of the consumer of such power, except in cases where the water

 so pumped is sold or rented to irrigate lands, in which event the kilowatt-hour taxes associated with generating or delivering power, shall be subject to taxation to the extent that such water is sold or rented.

- (c) If the consumer is not a customer of the deliverer of electrical power, the kilowatt-hour taxes that would have been due from such utility related to the exemption, if such exemption had not been applied, shall be paid annually for each year in which the exemption is applied, directly to the consumer by the utility delivering such electricity for irrigation purposes. To qualify for credit or direct payment, the person or organization at the point of delivery must also be the person or organization pumping water for irrigation purposes and not a distributor or redistributor of electrical power.
- (d) The procedures described in subsections (2) and (3) of this section shall be used in determining the benefit to which each consumer is entitled by virtue of this exemption.
- (2) To receive the benefit of the exemption under this section, each consumer who is not a customer of the deliverer of electrical power must file an application with the state tax commission on or before April 30 each year. The state tax commission shall prescribe by rule the form and information necessary for such application.
- (3) On or before November 15 each year, the tax collector of each county shall transmit to the state tax commission duplicate tax statements of each utility, showing the kilowatt-hour taxes payable by each utility in such county. The state tax commission shall as soon as practicable thereafter certify to each utility the aggregate savings in kilowatt-hour taxes effected in the several counties to each utility by reason of this exemption. On or before December 15 of each year, each utility shall file with the state tax commission a statement showing the revenues that were or are to be collected from each irrigation or drainage pumping consumer and the ratio between the aggregate savings in kilowatt-hour taxes certified to it by the state tax commission and the aggregate revenues that were or are to be collected from such consumers. The utility shall determine the credit to which each consumer is entitled by virtue of this exemption and shall certify to the state tax commission that it has refunded or credited against the consumer's bills the amounts due each consumer. This refund or credit shall equal each consumer's bill for the year multiplied by the ratio calculated pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The public utilities commission shall have jurisdiction under the public utilities law to ensure utility compliance with the provisions of this statute.

SECTION 8. That Chapter 35, Title 63, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a $\underline{\text{NEW SECTION}}$, to be known and designated as Section 63-3503C, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

63-3503C. FILING OPERATOR'S STATEMENT -- CALCULATION, COLLECTION, ALLOTMENT, AND APPORTIONMENT OF TAX FROM RATE-REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANIES BY STATE TAX COMMISSION. (1) Every rate-regulated electric utility company in the state of Idaho shall file with the state tax commission an operator's statement pursuant to section 63-404, Idaho Code, and shall include on such statement the number of kilowatt-hours sold in Idaho for the preceding calendar year. The state tax commission shall examine and verify

such statement and compute the amount of taxes due by multiplying the number of kilowatt-hours sold by the rate pursuant to section 63-3502B(3), Idaho Code, reduced as provided in section 63-3502C, Idaho Code.

- (2) Upon the calculation of taxes determined in this section, and no later than the third Monday of May, the state tax commission shall notify each county treasurer of the amount of taxes due to the county. Each county treasurer shall notify each rate-regulated electric utility company of the amount of taxes owed by June 15, and such tax shall be due and payable to each county treasurer no later than June 30. The county treasurer shall notify the county auditor of the amount so received no later than the second Monday of July.
- (3) By no later than the fourth Monday of July each year, each county auditor shall multiply the amount of tax received by the county as of June 30 by the proportions calculated pursuant to section 63-405(3), Idaho Code, and shall notify each taxing district and unit and urban renewal agency of the amount they will receive. By the fourth Monday of August, such amounts shall be paid by the county auditor to each eligible taxing district and unit and urban renewal agency.
- (4) A new taxing district formed after January 1, 2024, shall not be eligible for any kilowatt-hour taxes provided pursuant to section 63-3502B(3), Idaho Code.
- (5) A new revenue allocation area formed after January 1, 2024, shall not receive a tax distribution pursuant to this section.
- (6) Any taxes levied pursuant to this section and not paid by June 30 shall become delinquent and a penalty of five percent (5%) thereof shall be imposed, together with interest at the rate of one percent (1%) per month from June 30 until paid.
- (7) All taxes due and payable under this section shall be a lien on all property, real and personal, of the rate-regulated electric utility company as of June 30 of each year and shall be discharged only by the payment thereof. In any action to enforce payment of any delinquent taxes due under this section, the county pursuing such action shall be entitled to a judgment for the reasonable costs of prosecuting such action, as well as for the delinquent taxes, penalty, and interest.
- (8) If a rate-regulated electric utility company fails to file the statement of kilowatt-hours sold in Idaho required pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, the state tax commission shall use the best available information to determine the kilowatt-hours sold in Idaho.
- SECTION 9. That Section 63-3506, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 63-3506. ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY BY ASSESSOR. Any property not subject to the gross receipts tax levied in this chapter of any cooperative electrical or natural gas association, or producer of electricity by means of wind energy, by means of solar energy, or by means of geothermal energy, and any property not subject to the kilowatt-hour tax levied in this chapter on any rate-regulated electric utility company shall be assessed by the county assessor of the county wherein such property is situate, and taxes levied against the same shall be a lien, and shall be due and payable, in the same manner as are any other taxes on property.

1 SECTION 10. This act shall be in full force and effect on and after Jan-

2 uary 1, 2025.