



**Idaho Water Utilities Council
Pacific Northwest Section and Intermountain Section**

**American Water Works Association
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February 21, 2025

Senator Van T. Burtenshaw
Chairman, Resources and Environment Committee
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0081

Subject: SB1083

Dear Chairman Burtenshaw and Committee Members,

The Idaho Water Utilities Council (IWUC) wishes to express its support for Senate Bill 1083 regarding amendments to domestic well exemption and the use of water in subdivisions.

The proposed amendments as written are a positive advance in Idaho water management in multiple areas surrounding domestic use with several main objectives being fulfilled. The first being focused on subdivisions located within Ground Water Management, Critical Ground Water, or Moratorium Areas. It effectively dictates permits are required and obtained for water use outside of domestic in-home use or stockwatering purposes. This adds more accountability and management controls for non-consumptive domestic water use.

Secondly, ensuring that we have clean, pure water in our aquifers is imperative. This Bill provides important clarification domestic uses pertaining to single wells utilized for in-home use. As more and more wells continue to be drilled, it will become increasingly difficult to make that happen. This bill provides important clarification on what IDWR can do to oversee the installation of community wells.

Lastly, and most importantly, this Bill provides a mechanism to implement design standards for wells being constructed near municipal service areas, requiring infrastructure to be compatible so they can integrate and connect to, when appropriate. This effectively reduces the effort and cost of merging with municipal systems, ensures the robustness of facilities for emergency use (i.e. fire protection), and reduces the impact on groundwater resources.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of Paul Arrington with the Idaho Water Utilities Association for the approach taken for this legislative effort. Water is a precious resource that many Idaho stakeholders share. Each of these stakeholders holds a different interest and use, making changes to code that are suitable for all, difficult. Historically these changes have been carried out in the sole interest of the proposer without consideration or input from affected stakeholders.

This exercise was welcoming and inclusive to multiple stakeholders from over a dozen interest groups, bringing a collaborative and fair approach to legislative change so that each had an opportunity to voice concerns, contribute solutions, and deliver a final proposal that serves the best interest of all. Mr. Arrington's effort is a welcome improvement to the historical process that we thank him for introducing and advocating for. The IWUC supports this approach and encourages others to adopt in future endeavors.

Who We Are: The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is an international, nonprofit, scientific and educational society dedicated to providing total water solutions assuring the effect management of water. Founded in 1881, the Association is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world and is the largest and oldest association of drinking water professionals in the world. AWWA unites the diverse water community to advance public health, safety, the economy and the environment. AWWA membership includes over 4,300 utilities that supply roughly 80 percent of the nation's drinking water and treat almost half of the nation's wastewater.

The Idaho Water Utilities Council (IWUC) was formed in 1995 under the auspices of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and is comprised of water utilities throughout the state who reside in the Pacific Northwest Section and the Intermountain Section of the AWWA. The IWUC represents a broad group of public water systems, large and small throughout Idaho. The mission of the IWUC is to promote public policies, legislation, and regulations which ensure an adequate quantity of high-quality potable water at the lowest economic and environmental cost for these systems.

In conclusion, the IWUC supports Senate Bill 1083 as positive and necessary improvement for the growing need of our Idaho communities through the betterment of water resource management.

Respectfully,

Dennis M. Teller
Chair, Idaho Water Utilities Council
PNWS-IMS American Water Works Association

cc: Secretary Shelly Johnson
Vice Chairman Hart
Senator Guthrie
Senator Harris
Senator Okuniewicz
Senator Cook
Senator VanOrden
Senator Kohl
Senator Taylor
Paul Arrington, IWUA
Tom Points, AWWA-IWUC Vice Chair
John Wiskus, AWWA-IWUC Past Chair