



March 23, 2026

Idaho State Senate
700 W Jefferson Street
Boise, ID 83702

Subject: Idaho Utilities Support State Historic Preservation Office Move to the new Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination

Dear Members of the Idaho State Senate:

On behalf of Idaho's investor-owned and consumer-owned electric utilities, we write to express our support for HB 898 to move the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to the new Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination.

As organizations responsible for providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy to communities across Idaho, we rely on clear, coordinated engagement between state offices to plan and build critical infrastructure. Investments in transmission, generation, and grid modernization require long-term planning, environmental and historic review, and consistent collaboration across multiple regulatory bodies. A unified agency structure will provide greater clarity and predictability for these efforts, helping ensure that projects are evaluated through transparent processes and sound science.

We believe this legislation will:

- Support a more streamlined and transparent permitting process for essential energy infrastructure.
- Provide for better administrative efficiency, policy alignment, and improved coordination of permitting.
- Enable timely investments that support grid reliability, economic growth, and workforce development.

Reliable energy infrastructure is foundational to Idaho's economic vitality and the well-being of the communities we serve. Improved coordination amongst state offices will help utilities responsibly meet growing demand while maintaining strong environmental and historic protections.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 898 and appreciate your continued leadership on policies that advance Idaho's energy future.

Will Hart, Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association
Collins Sprague, Avista Corporation

Jen Visser, Idaho Power Company
Thom Carter, Rocky Mountain Power