

DISTRICT 30
BANNOCK COUNTY
HOME ADDRESS
585 SOUTH 19TH
POCATELLO, IDAHO 83201
(208) 232-2702



OFFICE ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0081
(208) 332-1406
FAX: (208) 334-2116
emalepeai@senate.idaho.gov

Idaho State Senate

SENATOR EDGAR MALEPEAI
SENATE MINORITY LEADER

RECEIVED
2011 MAY 12 AM 8:26
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 11, 2011

The Honorable Marsha H. Smith
The Honorable Paul Kjellander
The Honorable Mack A. Redford
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 West Washington Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: Case No. GNR-E-11-01

Dear Commissioners Smith, Kjellander, and Redford:

I am writing to provide comment on the case cited above and I do so as an individual Idaho State Senator, not on behalf of the Senate Minority Office. The legislature was confronted by a surprising number of bills related to Idaho's energy policy in the 2011 session, particularly with respect to issues pertaining to wind and alternative energy.

One such bill, H 348, passed resoundingly in the House and I was disappointed that the bill did not get a full hearing in the Senate where I believe it would have enjoyed equal support. This legislation would have set the eligibility cap at 100 kw for wind and solar energy projects seeking published avoided cost rates. I support this cap which requires wind and solar projects *larger than 100 kw* to negotiate with the purchasing utilities on prices that are consistent with actual avoided costs. Since these costs are passed-through to Idaho's ratepayers, it is critical that the utilities pay no more than what they would have otherwise paid for the same type of energy.

I would urge the Commission to consider setting the published rate eligibility cap at 100 kw on a permanent basis which would align Idaho's published rate eligibility with federal regulations and require developers to negotiate a fair price for ratepayers with the utility.

I applaud the Commission's on-going stewardship which has enabled Idaho to enjoy reliable and reasonably priced energy. A permanent cap will enhance our energy stability by establishing appropriate energy policy and pricing into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edgar J. Malepeai".

Edgar J. Malepeai