



Mayor Tammy de Weerd  
City Council Members:

Keith Bird  
Brad Hoaglund  
Charles Rountree  
David Zaremba

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IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

July 10, 2012

GNR-E-11-03

Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
P O Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the City of Meridian, I am writing in regards to Electric Case GNR-E-11-03 which is currently open for public review and comment. This case is of crucial importance to the overall health of our state's economy and we urge the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) to consider the larger impacts as you decide upon the merits of this case.

We understand that the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) and the tax policies included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 have created numerous small alternative energy producers which bring along with them a purchase requirement of renewable energy by electrical utilities such as Idaho Power. This federal mandate is not based upon open market principals or demands, and these small energy producers have a higher cost that is ultimately passed along to our citizens and businesses through higher rates. This creates unfortunate consequences for all consumers and we applaud the IPUC in their action earlier this year which is enabling Idaho Power to negotiate reasonable contracts with these alternative energy producers.

As a state we don't offer as many incentives to new or expanding businesses compared to other states. However, having access to affordable power is an important factor in any equation as businesses choose to expand or locate in Idaho. Over the last few years the City of Meridian has had several discussions with businesses who are looking to build or expand in our community and they point to the favorable electrical rates in Idaho. Based upon these conversations, raising our rates could have a negative impact on manufacturers or high-energy businesses choosing Idaho. We urge you to take this impact into consideration during your review of this case.

Ultimately, we ask the IPUC to protect consumers from artificially high electrical costs based upon a federal mandate and urge a common sense approach to meeting our state's needs in compliance with federal laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy de Weerd".

Tammy de Weerd  
Mayor