

✓ Ken Aede
sent 4/15/07

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.

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3932 Leland Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
June 11, 2007

Idaho Public Utilities
472 W. Washington
Boise, Idaho 83702

Commissioners;

Well, ain't this special? We just had a 20% raise in our electric rates June 1 and now Idaho Power is wanting over 4% more?!

The excuse is that there is low water and cost of power is higher from gas and coal. However wasn't that what the 20% was to cover? They complain about development needing more lines and plants. Instead of saying "NO" to indiscriminate development they go right along for more money.

They are charging people extra to sign up for "green" power which of course is a hoax because the power can't be divided up into "dirty" and "green". They pay exorbitant amounts for some irrigators to shut off the irrigation pumps. And they also pay overly high prices to small producers of power to enter the grid. Perhaps this practice ought to be brought more into line with the true value of the power brought on line from small producers who have excess power to sell.

I protest the constant increase in costs for a commodity people need unless they can live in a cave. Most have no well for water and here an old fashioned pump would not work. We cannot burn coal or wood to cook or heat our homes because it pollutes too much, especially in a city environment. One can hardly communicate with a business without a phone and most are trying to force everyone onto the internet too.

I suggest that business executives, who are getting pay completely out of line with what they do, tighten their belt just like those who are working poor and on fixed income have to do. Some to the point that we may not be able to eat, heat or cool our homes, buy medicines and certainly can't pay for health care.

Myself I am on fixed income and unable to work fast enough to suit anyone anymore. So this month I have been hit with a \$2.75 raise on my phone for it to sit there plus charges for intrastate long distance that I never use. A 20% electric increase, which I can't compensate for anymore. I burn one light at night, none doing the day like my neighbors who all around me burn lights day and night inside and outside. I cook less than before using microwave to reheat things. I had my air conditioner on May 3rd as I could not cool the house by opening the doors and windows as I have been doing all along. My neighbors have run their A/C continually since April and the rest of us have to pay for the waste. I watch TV as my only source of information in the evening for the news. I use the typewriter of my computer to write letters, as my writing is poor and then turn it off. And hate to even use it. So I can't cut much more unless I go live in the street, as no caves are conveniently nearby.

Of course, we are paying highway robbery gas prices with the governments' blessing so that Exxon can build refineries for the Chinese off the American consumers back. Yet they say there is not enough refinery capacity here in the U. S. If so, then why

are they using our money to build for foreigners and not here??? So I now get to go to the grocery store twice a month and go to doctor visits at the VA as scheduled. I can't even afford to go to the library as I used to. So I get to live alone as I can't even afford a dog now because human and pet food increases constantly. And medicines increase in cost nearly every 3 months for old medicines, again with the governments' blessing

And add to that they have increased my property taxes nearly 19% AGAIN. They have increased our taxes here every year for the last 4 years even though there are no improvements and the house is considered old.

BUT I AM EXPECTED TO ABSORB ALL COSTS BUT GET NO RAISE TO COVER IT. I say it is time for overpriced executives to take reduced pay. If many of us are expected to live on \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 a year I see no reason why they can't live just fine on \$250,000.00/year. (Well, well, I see an article in the Sunday Statesman that illustrates my point very nicely. Copy enclosed.)

I say that no further increase over the 20% is needed in our electric rates. They have promised to build a plant. They were hyping a fuel cell to generate power to save costs but apparently that is all hot air.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Walt Hickstein

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Many CEOs earn at least \$8.3 million a year

NATION Associated Press numbers show Standard & Poor executives get paid more like movie stars, pro athletes

BY BILLER SIMON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A new Associated Press calculation shows that CEOs have skyrocketed into the stratospheric heights of pro athletes and movie stars. Half make more than \$8.3 million a year, and

some make much, much more.

CEOs of companies in the Standard & Poor 500 that filed proxy information in the first half of this year received a combined \$4.16 billion in 2006, according to AP's formula.

The high cost of chief executives' pay has drawn criticism in recent years as salaries rose, stock

options paid off like lottery tickets, and perks like chauffeured cars and private jets spread. Still, there are few signs of any investor backlash.

A recent report by the Congressional Research Service helps to put the executive pay issue into a real-world context. CEOs make on average 179 times as much as rank-and-file workers, double the 90-to-1 ratio in 1994, according to the agency's calculations. If the minimum wage had risen

at the same pace as CEO pay since 1990, it would be worth \$22.61 today, according to the Institute for Policy Studies. Instead, the federal minimum wage will increase to \$5.85 an hour on July 24, the first increase in a decade.

Yahoo! Inc.'s Terry Semel, whose Internet company has lagged behind Google Inc. in profit growth and stock performance, led the pack with total compensation last year of \$21.7 million, according to the AP formula used

to analyze those filings.

That's more than 27 times the \$27 million in total compensation this year for the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, baseball's highest-paid player, and higher than the typical pay of such A-list movie stars as Brad Pitt or Leonardo DiCaprio — \$20 million, plus 20 percent of the gross box office take.

Semel was followed on the AP list by one energy industry CEO, Bob Shriver of XTO Energy Inc.

at \$59.5 million and Occidental Petroleum Corp.'s Roy R. Hunt at \$52.8 million.

The top 16 earners were in private industries, but they all have one thing in common: They were paid at least \$30 million each in 2006.

The Securities and Exchange Commission required companies starting this year to more carefully disclose what they're

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PAY

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ing their top executives. But the SEC's approach has been criticized for failing to provide useful figures for investors: the AP, in consultation with leading experts, came up with its own formula designed specifically to isolate the value of all compensation awarded to CEOs in the previous year.

Of the 386 companies in the AP list — those whose fiscal years ended after Dec. 31, and who reported by June 1 under the new SEC rules — only six reported their CEOs made less than \$1 million last year.

The lowest paid was Goetze Wholesale Corp. CEO James Sinegal, who made \$411,688. But no need to shed tears for him: Sinegal also owns 2.4 million Costco shares, worth about \$1.3 billion, and has options to buy 1.2 million more shares.

This year's expanded disclosure requirements also offer a much more detailed look at perks given to top executives. They range from multimillion dollar tax payments on behalf of executives to much smaller amounts for household bills, including home alarm monitoring.

A handful of companies, including Washington Mutual Inc., have spawned a new genre of "pay" stories. If meat producers are forced to disclose that foreign beef goes into products like hamburgers, some say, that could hurt sales, especially given the public's worries about mad cow disease.

as stock grants and stock options, according to AP calculations. His salary totaled only \$250,000.

plus, the eventual payouts from stock options handed to CEOs could be substantially higher in future years if the overall market keeps floating most stock boats higher.

If wasn't supposed to turn out this way.

This was expected to be the year that investor anger over pay

boiled over. After Home Depot Inc.'s Robert Nardelli and Pfizer Inc.'s Henry A. McKinnell left their battered companies with golden parachutes worth \$210 million and nearly \$200 million, respectively, shareholder activists entered proxy season this spring and outsized retirement packages. It didn't happen.

Most annual meetings were quiet affairs. Shareholders did win

votes giving them a say in executive compensation at Verizon Communications Inc., Blockbuster Inc. and Motorola Inc.

CEOs are also much richer than lower-level executives at their own companies. The Hay Group, a compensation consulting company, estimates that the average CEO makes 2.5 times more than the average executive in base pay.

The SEC's new disclosure rules also mandate narratives, in plain

English, explaining how pay decisions are reached. But a study of the disclosures by Clarity Communications found that most failed to meet readability standards many states require for insurance forms.

"At some point you have to ask yourself why. Why don't I get all this?" said Dominic Jones, Clarity's president.

Still, if the process around pay is inching its way toward something that looks more democratic,

ic, executive pay may be one area where gravity doesn't apply.

Said John Wilcox, head of corporate governance at retirement system TIAA-CREF, which manages more than \$410 billion.

"Once it's up there, it's very hard to pull it down again."

AP Business Writers: Minnie Jones and Rachel Beck in New York and Mary Gordon in Washington contributed to this report.

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