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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, GOVERNOR
DONALD A. DIETRICH, DIRECTOR

August 12, 2009

Honorable Jim Kempton
✓ Honorable Marsha Smith
Honorable Mack Redford
Idaho Public Utility Commission
P O Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

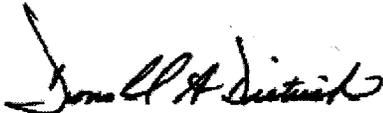
The mission of the Idaho Department of Commerce is to create jobs, strengthen communities and market the state. In furtherance of that mission, the Governor recently helped us launch Project 60, a comprehensive initiative to grow Idaho's gross domestic product from \$51 billion to \$60 billion. Designed in three tiers to strengthen both rural and urban communities, the plan will help create quality jobs for all Idahoans by fostering systemic growth, recruiting new companies to Idaho and selling Idaho's trade and investment opportunities to the world.

As a result, the Department of Commerce is keenly interested in the development of additional energy infrastructure in Idaho, not only for the direct jobs associated with such development, but also because of the need for new energy resources to attract and retain business and industry. Reliable and affordable energy is a critical element in our economic development efforts.

Our department believes that Idaho Power's Langley Gulch Project makes sense for the company, for consumers and for us as we pursue our job creation mission for the state. It will support and complement the development of additional renewable resources, provide a stable base-load resource and is environmentally responsible.

I know you must carefully evaluate utility projects and operations, and understand that these cases often are complex. However, I wanted to share with you the Department of Commerce's support for this project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Dietrich
Director