

Southwest Idaho Rural Development
(SWIRD)

P.O. Box 10, Glenns Ferry, ID 83623
Co-Chairs: David Payne & Connie Wills

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May 1, 2015

To whom it may concern:

Southwest Idaho Rural Development (SWIRD) is an organization made up of various business and community leaders in Glenns Ferry and Elmore County. As a board our main objective is to support economic growth and development in our area and, in a larger context, throughout the region and our state. The SWIRD board is aware of many renewable energy projects being developed and proposed in Elmore County along with those already in place, and know that the trend to develop these projects could continue for some time in the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, we understand that there are benefits and potential drawbacks or costs associated with the development of these projects and bringing the power produced to the marketplace. With that in mind, we support Idaho Power's request to shorten the length of guaranteed contracts for large solar and wind generation projects from a contract review timeline of every 5 years, to a timeline of every 2 years. We believe this timeframe to be fair and in the best interests of Idahoans, as so many variables go into the price and production of power.

Having access to reliable electricity at a fair price is essential to the growth and development of businesses in our community. It's also essential to the financial health of our residents, who range from individuals living on fixed incomes to major industrial and agricultural businesses.

We don't just work here. We live here. Our residents love and respect the environment that's essential to our way of life in Idaho and the Northwest. All of us want clean energy, and we are glad to know that a majority of the electricity we use comes from the region's clean, renewable hydro resources.

Moving toward an even cleaner energy future should move forward with caution and prudent consideration as it relates to expense, reliability, and affordability of power. Idaho Power recognizes that, and we recognize the company's attempt to keep power costs in line with current market rates, which will benefit residents and companies in our community.

Please support Idaho Power's petition to modify the terms and conditions of future PURPA energy sales agreements (IPC-E-15-01).

Thank you,



Connie Wills
Co-Chair



David Payne
Co-Chair

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