

 **Cheryl L. Magni**  
2905 W. Grover St.  
Boise, ID 83705-1623

6-30-15

To: Id PUC

As an ID power bill payer,  
I would like to power  
to use more solar  
power. I would like  
to see more development  
of solar energy.

Thank you,

C. Magni

2025-10-11 AM 8:27  
LITERATURE COMMISSION

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** aimee@christensenglobal.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 4:55 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Jean Jewell; Gene Fadness  
**Cc:** aimee@christensenglobal.com  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Aimee Christensen

Name: Aimee Christensen  
Case Number: IPC-E-15-01  
Email: aimee@christensenglobal.com  
Telephone: 2024929520  
Address: PO Box 4089  
Ketchum ID, 83340

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Acknowledge public record: True

Comment: Please replace my previous comment with this one.

Dear Commissioners Kjellander, Redford, and Raper,

I am an energy strategist, having worked for global corporations and governments for over 20 years, including Duke Energy, Google, Microsoft and the U.S. Department of Energy. Five years ago I moved back to Blaine County, bringing my work home, and I have been distressed to watch Idaho miss a vast economic, security and environmental opportunity: homegrown renewable energy. The PUC decision will directly impact the plans of our local community in the Wood River Valley where we have been working on our energy resilience to reduce the economic, reliability and environmental risks our community is facing.

According to Bloomberg's Energy Outlook for 2030, solar will grow ten times larger, becoming a \$1.5 trillion industry globally, wind will double, and fossil fuels will fall by half. Here in the United States, solar is creating jobs at over 10 times the pace of the general economy and at a 20% higher median salary. China has more solar than any other nation and Walmart is the largest solar buyer in the U.S. Why China and Walmart? Solar is cheap, creates good jobs fast and keeps energy costs stable. Over the past ten years, U.S. average commercial electricity rates have gone up more than 20% and prices are increasingly volatile. With zero fuel costs and a fixed price for the life of a 20-year solar contract (the usual term of buying solar for a home or business), you can save money from day one and avoid price increases and volatility.

Idaho deserves the opportunity that solar presents to the state, to ratepayers, commercial and industrial buyers of power, farmers and landowners, for jobs, and for our grid resilience.

If the Commission reduces the length of contracts the utilities sign to purchase independent power, solar and other independent power will not proceed in our state. The financial reality is that no solar project will attract investors without a contract of at least 15 years, if not 20. So if the Commissioners side with Idaho Power and the other monopoly utilities, solar projects will remain dead in the water as they have been since January when the Commission agreed to a temporary contract reduction to 5 years.

This is a massive missed opportunity. Idaho has the same solar potential as north Florida and only 10% less than Texas. It can create hundreds (if not thousands or tens of thousands) of good quality jobs here. Solar can benefit farmers who can be paid for solar on their property: in discussions with farmers in Blaine County we found they could earn up to 2 times

as much as some agricultural crops, in addition, solar can be added to existing farm activities, not competing with them, whether being put on buildings or on marginal land and continuing agriculture on more productive land. Solar can benefit Idaho ratepayers: at a fixed least cost, solar power prices won't increase for the duration of the contract. Across the country, coal power plants are shutting down early as they are no longer competitive with solar and other options. And solar can benefit the Idaho state budget: solar power projects increase the state's tax base, while schools and prisons can generate their own onsite power, saving money and selling to the grid to make money.

Idaho Power is maintaining their long-term contracts with their own generation facilities. The out of state coal plants in which they are invested do not create benefits to Idaho, they send dollars out of the state. These are also increasingly uncompetitive. By Idaho Power's own analysis, the Valmy coal plant is uncompetitive by 2020 and the contract should end then, not be extended to 2025 as Idaho Power would like. This is a conflict of interest as they are invested in it. Bridger should be phased out more quickly as well to bring price stability to ratepayers in Idaho and the other benefits of instate power.

Finally, the new federal Clean Air Act rules under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean Power Plan" are requiring states to reduce the pollution of their electricity, increasing demand for renewable energy. Idaho could produce solar power and export it to neighboring states, again increasing incomes and growing jobs in Idaho. This is a massive strategic opportunity for Idaho, but not if Idaho's rules don't allow for solar projects to be financed.

Our utilities are forestalling the inevitable that is coming, harming Idaho in the meantime. Idaho Power claims they are keeping power prices low, particularly for large commercial and industrial customers. Who are those customers? They include agricultural users, such as the JR Simplot Company. But Simplot opposes Idaho Power's request, as they can more efficiently generate onsite renewable energy including from agricultural waste, saving money and generating income. They also include, and increasingly will be, technology companies. What do they want? Google, Microsoft and Apple have all said they want 100% renewable energy. Apple is already at 97%. Where are they building new facilities? Not Idaho. Apple is building solar in both North Carolina and California. Microsoft is doing biogas and wind power in Wyoming and Illinois. We need to attract these companies to Idaho, and they want 100% renewable energy, not a grid mix of 40% coal.

We have seen utilities fight this battle in other states, yet when those state regulators require utilities to open to competition, it benefits ratepayers, the state, and the utilities themselves. For instance, in Georgia tea party activists who wanted energy choice in the face of increasing power prices joined with environmentalists and successfully convinced state leaders to further open their markets to solar. What happened? The utility, Georgia Power, is now giving its customers what they want: low-cost power and individual choice. Georgia Power just signed contracts for over 500 megawatts of utility-scale solar with 20 to 30 year contracts with no power rate increases. Not coincidentally, Georgia Power just also announced it will offer its residents rooftop solar installation as well as Nest Thermostats (to help reduce power bills) and Tesla battery storage systems (to increase power reliability). With the "encouragement" of customers and regulators, Georgia Power found they can offer customers what they want while protecting the bottom line.

On a local level in Blaine County, community leaders have been concerned about our energy resilience: the economic costs, environmental costs, and reliability risks. I chair the Ketchum Energy Advisory Committee advising our community on how to address these risks. Through local generation, and the best resource in the Wood River Valley is solar, the community can reduce these threats: keeping more investment in the area, creating jobs, strengthening the grid's reliability and improving local ability to back it up with local resources, cleaning up the electricity's environmental impact, which undermines a community which relies on access to snow and water for winter and summer needs. One key tool was to

leverage PURPA to sell into the grid to develop larger scale solar projects including community solar to be invested in by the community. This tool should not be removed from the toolset available to communities in Idaho seeking to strengthen their economies and energy security.

The PURPA system was working in Idaho when the process was stopped in January. The PUC should let the system continue to work. If, however, there is concern over need, Idaho Power has said they would be open to an annual or biannual RFP process to pace new PURPA-based independent power. There is a way forward that does not eliminate Idaho's solar opportunity.

We rely on the PUC to move Idaho's utilities to a smarter future. The old approach has been one of ever-increasing power prices, no consumer choice and a missed opportunity for Idaho. Idaho Power is also missing the chance to build new business models for its operations. We need the utilities to continue to play their key role, not wither away from competition as they refuse to find a way to compete in the inevitable, rapidly arriving, new reality.

Everyone in Idaho -- ratepayers, farmers, conservationists, fiscal conservatives and business owners -- needs to insist our utility monopolies jump out of the nest and try new wings. Then Idaho, our economy, and our future will soar.

Unique Identifier: 66.232.67.82

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** indianhillsranch@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 30, 2015 3:33 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Jean Jewell; Gene Fadness  
**Cc:** indianhillsranch@aol.com  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Jeremy Thomas

Name: Jeremy Thomas  
Case Number: IPC-E-15-01  
Email: [indianhillsranch@aol.com](mailto:indianhillsranch@aol.com)  
Telephone:  
Address: 39774 Indian Hills Road  
Hammett Idaho, 83627

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Acknowledge public record: True

Comment: A healthy renewable energy sector in Idaho means new jobs, economic stimulation and millions of dollars in new tax revenues for state and local governments. And that all takes place here so we're not exporting our energy dollars to states where our coal plants are located.

Unique Identifier: 70.208.0.86