

**Public Comment on IDAHO POWER--NEW SCHEDULES FOR CUSTOMERS WITH ON-SITE GENERATION: IPC-E-17-13**

**Submitted by:**

**Chad Worth  
Garden City, ID**

My name is Chad Worth of Garden City, Idaho. I volunteer on the Board of Directors of the Snake River Alliance. I work as an engineer for a consulting firm focusing on energy efficiency and distributed energy resources. I have also previously worked for a small independent solar installer. The following comments represent my own personal comments, and are not the view or opinion of the Snake River Alliance.

In 2016 and 2017, I helped the Snake River Alliance start and operate the *Solarize the Valley* program to educate people about rooftop solar and increase the amount of clean energy being generated in Idaho. The program was very successful with over 110 families installing solar panels with a total capacity of over 760 kW all across Southwest Idaho. I know firsthand that these net energy metering (NEM) customers (& those who are not NEM customers) have significant concerns about the future of Idaho Power's NEM program.

I urge the Commission to consider the following comments regarding Idaho Power's (the Company) application for New Schedules for Customers with On-Site Generation (IPC-E-17-13).

**1. The Commission should work to protect customer choice for all electric ratepayers in Idaho.**

The people of Idaho grant the Company and our state's other investor-owned utilities a natural monopoly in exchange for providing reliable, low-cost power, and to the Company's credit, they do a good job keeping the lights on at a reasonable cost. However, the state of Idaho has not de-regulated its utilities, like many other states. Electric customers in Idaho don't have a choice of who their power provider is, as one would for example in Texas. Maintaining customer choice in any market drives competition and leads to an overall more efficient market place. The NEM program is the only *real* choice the Company's customers have. I strongly encourage the Commission to protect this choice.

**2. The Commission should reject the Company's request for a new rate class for residential and small general service (R&SGS) customers with on-site generation as it is not warranted and sets a dangerous precedent for rate class development and rate making.**

R&SGS customers throughout the Company's service territory are inherently diverse as far as peak demand, seasonal & diurnal loads, and overall annual energy consumption.

However, R&SGS customers with on-site generation are only one small group of residential customers whose energy use characteristics are different than others and who may have different costs of service. Cost of service varies extensively between rural and urban customers, customers with electric or gas heating, customers with air conditioning or no air conditioning, apartment dwellers and single-family homeowners, etc. Using the Company's logic, it may be more equitable to use these various residential customer attributes to develop numerous new rate classes. However, because this is unlikely to happen, to single-out customers with on-site generation is arbitrary. Not only has the Company not demonstrated that there is a problem in need of a solution through a cost-benefit study, it also does not appear the Company has considered a myriad of other regulatory approaches. Many other states in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West regions have addressed concerns regarding rooftop solar compensation without creating new rate classes. I believe Idaho can do the same in a responsible manner.

**3. The state of Idaho has one of the lowest adoption rates of on-site solar generation in the region and the Company's proposal creates significant uncertainty into a very nascent solar market.**

As shown below in Figure 1, Idaho has one of the lowest solar adoption rates in the region. For example, as of December 30, 2017, according to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), state-wide Idaho has about 1 residential solar installation per thousand persons, far less than neighboring Utah and Nevada who have roughly 9 residential solar installations per thousand persons. It is worth noting that both states have implemented NEM reforms that do not create a new rate class. Even if the residential solar market were to grow five-fold in Idaho, the saturation would still be less than many neighboring states.

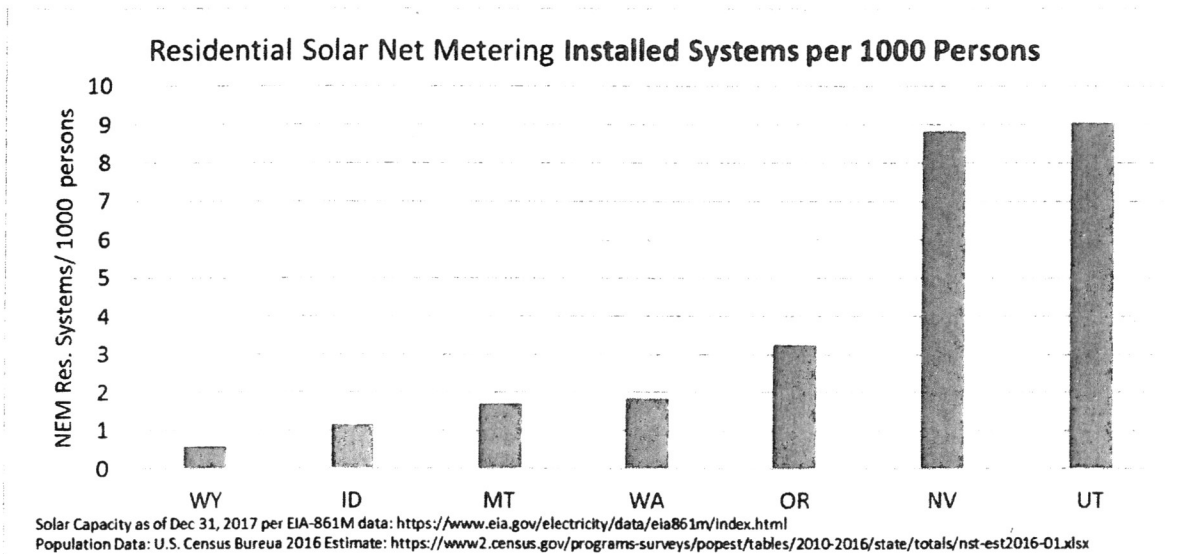


Figure 1: Solar adoption rates in Idaho's neighboring states

Even with modest growth in recent years, there are significant barriers to rapid expansion of solar in Idaho. For example, in Idaho, there is no mechanism for power purchase agreements, which have been very significant drivers for rapid solar growth in other states. Customers in Idaho must use local loans, home equity loans or cash to pay for their installations. I strongly believe the Company's proposal is pre-mature and will significantly dampen public interest towards achieving energy independence and resiliency using clean energy in Idaho.

**4. The company's proposal would discriminate against customers who have just one solar panel.**

Most of the families who participated in the Solarize the Valley program will not have "net zero" homes and will always be customers of the Company, beyond their minimum monthly service fee. Under the Company's proposal, if a customer chose to install even one solar panel they would fall into a new class of customers for whom future rates and fees are unknown.

It is not appropriate to single out non-net zero solar customers unfairly for future rate increases when customers that reduce their energy use in other ways do so without penalty. Idaho Power frequently encourages and helps customers to conserve and reduce energy use. In some houses, switching to all LED light bulbs or upgrading an air-conditioner could have the same impact as adding a small solar system.

This situation is another reason the Commission should reject the Company's application for a new rate class for R&SGS customers with on-site generation.

**5. The Commission should facilitate a process to properly value the costs and benefits of distributed energy resources like on-site solar generation before creating new rate classes or modifying the current NEM program.**

I encourage the Commission to start a new collaborative process with advocates, the Company, solar installers and others to develop a plan to allow solar and other customer side generation to grow sustainably in the Company's service territory. As a first step this group should oversee and provided input to a study to quantify costs and benefits of R&SGS customers with on-site generation. Then when this information is available and vetted, it would be appropriate to discuss the merits of new rate designs, fees, value of exports, etc.

It is true that most all *mature* solar markets in the United States have eventually migrated away from pure retail NEM and in time, it *may* be appropriate for the Company to do the same. However, as shown above in Figure 1, the Company's saturation of residential customers with on-site generation is still extremely small and will remain extremely small relative to neighboring states even under robust growth projections. In other words, we have time to address this issue in a collaborative manner and do not need to rush to implement a solution without all the data available.

Many states and public utility commissions across the country have grappled with the same concerns the Company has presented. Some states like Arizona and Utah have been thoughtful with their NEM reforms which have allowed their solar markets to grow in a sustainable manner. Other states such as Kansas have acted abruptly, siding with the incumbent natural monopoly utilities in creating a new rate class which will likely effectively eliminate a customer's choice to self-generate. In Idaho, we can do better and work collaboratively to resolve our differences.

**6. To reduce costs of administering the NEM program, the Commission should explore requiring the Company to implement an online interconnection process to replace the current paper-based interconnection application system.**

The Commission should consider requiring the Company to transition to an online interconnection application processing system for NEM applications to reduce costs for ratepayers and NEM participants. Mailing paper NEM applications is both burdensome for applicants and utility NEM program managers. In recent years dozens of utilities across the country have implemented online interconnection applications to reduce application processing time, errors and to easily communicate the status of applications to the applicants.

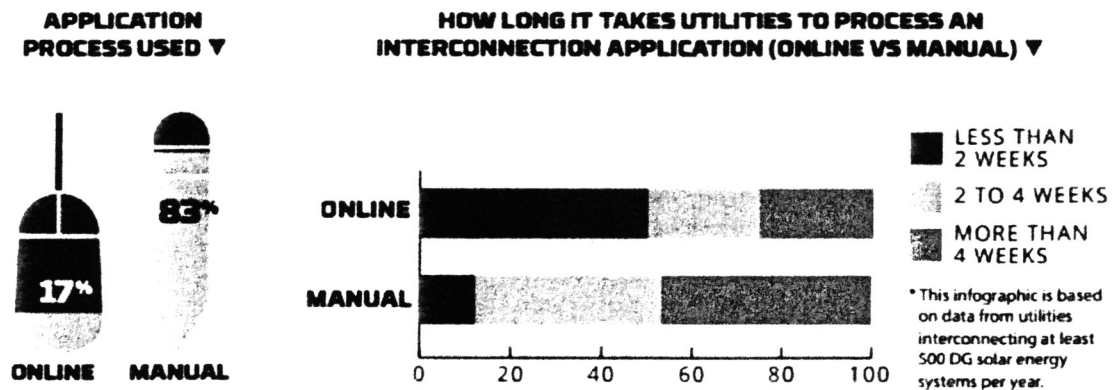


Figure 2: Statistics Comparing Manual vs. Online Interconnection Applications

Source: <https://www.nrel.gov/dgic/interconnection-insights-2017-10.html>

A recent case study by National Renewable Energy Labs (NREL) explores the different technology options and the benefits realized by switching to online interconnection platforms.

*DPV (distributed photovoltaics) and other distributed energy resources (DERs) add complexity to the electric grid and can result in positive or negative impacts depending on various factors, such as the project's location and local distribution system characteristics. Thorough interconnection processes ensure that these additions to the grid have no negative safety, reliability, or power-quality impacts. Interconnection*

*review and approval processes are crucial to the continued stability of the grid, but are also ripe for improvement in many areas of the country... Streamlining and improving interconnection processes can benefit all parties by reducing the financial and time commitments involved.*

*Improving Interconnection Processes with Online Application Processing Systems*

Source: <https://www.nrel.gov/dgic/interconnection-insights-2017-10.html>

There are numerous approaches different utilities have taken from developing their own in-house application processing systems to off-the-shelf software solutions. However, while each utility's needs are different, the benefits to an online interconnection platform will only increase as the number of customers with on-site generation grows. I encourage the Commission and the Company to consider implementing these best practices now which will provide near and long-term benefits to ratepayers, the Company and customers with on-site generation.

I thank the Commission for the opportunity to be involved in this process and encourage the Commission to carefully consider the comments outlined in this letter.

Sincerely,  
Chad Worth  
Garden City, ID

## Diane Holt

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**From:** jake.macarthur@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 9, 2018 4:28 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Jake MacArthur

Name: Jake MacArthur  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: jake.macarthur@gmail.com  
Telephone: 2064098104  
Address: 1209 N 24th St  
Boise ID, 83702

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Comment: I am not a net-metering customer.

I oppose Idaho Power's position. Idaho Power's conclusion that net-metering customers add financial burden to other customers is flawed and short-sighted. Idaho Power has failed to account for the positive externalities of solar power generation, such as clean, distributed and local energy generation. In addition, solar energy represents an opportunity for Idaho Power to decommission salmon killing dams, which would actually save the utility dollars, revive livelihoods and comply with the law.

Idaho Power is cherry picking - they have ignored that other customers disproportionately benefit from their service. For example, a cabin customer connected to Idaho Power incurs far more cost than a user in Boise, but they pay the same rates. Idaho Power has to provide the connection and service it in remote regions. Should these customers pay more?

Fundamentally, Idaho Power is following the lead of other utilities and listening to lobbying groups, such as Americans For Prosperity, the Edison Electric Institute and the American Legislative Exchange Council. These groups aim to prop up the fossil fuel industry and squash solar. They are not actually interested in this bogus environmental justice claim that Idaho Power is peddling.

Please stop this nonsense and reject Idaho Power. Sincerely, Jake MacArthur, Boise, ID

Unique Identifier: 209.253.39.250

## Diane Holt

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**From:** musical52@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 9, 2018 2:35 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Alyson Martin

Name: Alyson Martin  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: musical52@hotmail.com  
Telephone: 2084843241  
Address: 3716 E. Timbersaw Dr  
Boise Idaho, 83716

Name of Utility Company: Doing What We Can.org

Comment: In 2014 I bought my current home in Harris Ranch, Boise, Idaho. My home is an energy-efficient home with a high Energy Star rating. Despite my low electric use in my home, because I am extremely concerned about climate change and its adverse effects on the livability of the Earth, I solarized my home and have been a net-metering participant since July of 2016. I have read that Idaho Power believes solarizers are not paying our fair share for the grid, which arguably amounts to approximately \$65 a month. If true, that would raise a glaring question in my case. Before I solarized, I paid less than that per month. Under the scenario IP appears to be laying the groundwork for, I could end up paying MORE after investing in solar than I did before. That is simply unfair!! I should not be penalized for solarizing, which I did for the good of our community and Earth.

Come on IP. Let's plan for a livable future--together.

Alyson R. Martin, J.D.  
Founder: Doing What We Can/citizen climate action  
3716 Timbersaw Dr.  
Boise, Idaho 83716

Unique Identifier: 71.37.211.95

## Diane Holt

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**From:** vesta@mindspring.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 11:05 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Robert Vestal

Name: Robert Vestal  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: vesta@mindspring.com  
Telephone: 208-331-0465  
Address: 2021 N. Stoneview Place  
Boise ID, 83702

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Company

Comment: As customers of Idaho Power for many years and recent owners of a rooftop solar panel installation, my wife and I object strongly to the proposal by Idaho Power to reclassify customers who generate their own power. At considerable expense, we decided to install rooftop solar panels mainly for these reasons: (1) Reduce our consumption of non-renewable sources of power from sources that are detrimental to our environment, particularly fossil fuels (natural gas, coal). (2) Contribute to the national and worldwide effort to slow the rate of global warming. We believe that public utilities, as well as our local, state, and national governments, should be incentivizing the use of solar and wind energy rather than discouraging the use of these renewable energy sources. Idaho Power wants to a compensation structure that very likely would be used to reduce the credit, currently at the full retail rate, that results from solar generated power returned to the grid via net metering. This would be a disincentive to install rooftop solar.

We attended the hearing in Boise on March 1 and heard many well considered and persuasive reasons to reject the Idaho Power proposal. There was no support for the proposal. We also read the summaries of testimony from PUC staff, which also do not support the proposal. There is broad agreement that no change in the customer classes without a comprehensive analysis of the rationale, cost/benefit, and potential adverse consequences of the proposal. The entire process should be transparent. The burden of proof is on Idaho Power to demonstrate the adverse effects of net metering and the absence of ways to mitigate those effects. In fact, in my opinion this kind of analysis will show that wider use of solar energy actually will reduce the demand for conventional non-renewable energy and thus will reduce overall costs incurred by Idaho Power.

We respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposal by Idaho Power and to take whatever actions possible to encourage the use of rooftop solar.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Vestal

Unique Identifier: 24.117.128.217



## Diane Holt

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**From:** wegrim4@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 10:25 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Kris Grimshaw

Name: Kris Grimshaw  
Case Number: Case# IPCE-17-13 83201)  
Email: wegrim4@gmail.com  
Telephone: 208 863 5966  
Address: PO Box 725  
Boise ID, 83701

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Comment: I attended the public hearing in Boise, Idaho on March 1. There was an overwhelmingly large crowd in attendance and many of whom provided comment and testimony. Unfortunately, I was not able to get into the meeting room and spent the time in the foyer listening to the meeting on speaker provided by the PUC, thank you.

I would like to go on record, in writing, that I oppose the plan presented by Idaho Power to further add fees to current and future solar customers. Solar customers have invested large sums of personal dollars to install cutting edge technology on their homes. In doing so the energy they generate through solar panels is used to power their homes, any energy they do not use goes into the grid, creating a viable energy source for Idaho Power to use and sell to other customers. These solar customers do NOT receive monetary compensation for the power they generate but do not use, rather they are given a credit on their bill, ONCE ANNUALLY, to use against any non-solar energy they may consume. Idaho Power assesses minimum fees to be connected to their grid to all customers even if they do not use any Idaho Power generated energy. Solar customers should not be assessed or fined additional fees to continue their use of Solar energy and additional clean, renewable energy sources.

It is the 21st Century, we are living in a new era of readily available clean and renewable energy sources. They should be made easier to access, more readily available and encouraged through additional credits. They should not be made more difficult to access.

Please do not support the Idaho Power's request to create a new classification for customers who install onsite generation (solar, wind) and interconnect to Idaho Power's system. It is my understanding that at this time Idaho Power is not proposing to change the rates for these onsite generation customers. However, I must take pause at Idaho Power's long term goal where they may request to change rates for these onsite generation customers in the future. I believe the PUC's approval at this time would open the door for Idaho Power to change rates for onsite generation customers in the future, something that I strongly oppose.

Unique Identifier: 96.18.160.213

## Diane Holt

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**From:** whiteofboiseorders@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 9:11 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Courtney White

Name: Courtney White  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: whiteofboiseorders@gmail.com  
Telephone: 2083440503  
Address: 1518 Knights Drive  
Boise IDAHO, 83712

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Comment: In my problem-solving profession, there's a principle many of us quote: attack the problem, not the people. I would like to thank the PUC Staff for embodying that spirit. Staff took the approach of clarifying the issue, proposing a solution that targets the issue, and suggesting a venue through which other options could be evaluated. I agree with Staff's philosophy that the Company should not concern itself with what happens on the customer's side of the meter. I believe residential customers should have the same rates for what we download, and receive fair value for power we may or may not upload. While I have concerns with some specifics in Staff's proposal, that reinforces why I appreciate their approach: Staff proposed something specific enough that the process of evaluating the solution could even begin.

Idaho Power is asking for permission to discriminate. Idaho Power targets people with on-site generation and selects usage data to justify segregating them, regardless of whether they export or not. I would suggest this: if there's a problem with a certain usage pattern, align the rate structure for everyone. The Company has not shown that a separate rate class is necessary to address issues related to customers' usage patterns.

I'd particularly like to point out an issue that has not been fully addressed... A unique aspect of the proposed new classes is the mobility between classes: A net metering customer with a small system might turn off her system if the new rates were very unfavorable, or a standard customer with very high power bills might benefit from the new net metering rate schedule and could join that class with a minimum investment in on-site generation. Also, there has been minimal discussion of differences across wind, hydro, and solar net metering customers.

Idaho Power has stressed that problems with the current rate design help inform the evaluation of the new classes, and yet problems with the new rate design should be excluded from consideration. The Company describes the separate rate classes as a "first step" toward changing rate design; this first step solves no problems, the Company asks the Commission to assume that future steps will address the problems they assert. The Commission and stakeholders deserve the opportunity to evaluate solutions before approving this multi-step process. Every rate design is imperfect. The Commission has not been given sufficient analysis to weigh the imperfections of the current rate design relative to the imperfections of a rate design that relies on separate classes.

Here's one way to test for fairness: If a new rate design were fair and non-discriminatory, then theoretically a person on the very edge - a person generating 1 kWh per year of power - would have the same bill under either standard class or the new class. With separate rate classes, that would not happen.

I appreciate the PUC's thoughtful consideration and encourage the Commission to decline Idaho Power's request for new rate classes.

Unique Identifier: 159.118.92.8

## Diane Holt

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**From:** wfthode@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 7:25 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Walter Thode

Name: Walter Thode  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13 83201  
Email: wfthode@gmail.com  
Telephone: 2083639169  
Address: 4315 N Johns Landing Way  
Boise ID, 83703

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Co.

Comment: Idaho Power wants to change the current net metering pricing structure, but hasn't conducted a cost-benefit analysis on how this would affect those with rooftop solar. Independent analyses indicate that everyone benefits from net metering.

Rooftop solar is booming, bringing benefits to the area. It's a clean power alternative that should be encouraged, not penalized.

Unique Identifier: 63.155.35.174

## Diane Holt

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**From:** bertbowler@mac.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 8, 2018 4:30 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Bert Bowler

Name: Bert Bowler  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: bertbowler@mac.com  
Telephone: 208.860.2829  
Address: 1990 Stone Ridge Way  
Boise Idaho, 83712

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Company

Comment: I have been net metering for almost four years. I have a 3.0 kW system that is oriented in a southwesterly direction. During July and August between the hours of 4:00 & 7:00 pm my panels peak in production which coincides with IPC's peak electricity needs. I view my rooftop solar system as contributing to the solution rather than the problem related to climate change.

IPC needs to treat rooftop solar via net metering as an asset rather than a costly liability that it is not. IPC should actively promote rooftop solar - it is in the company's interest.

I am opposed to IPC's proposal creating a new customer class for residential and small general service customers utilizing rooftop solar.

Unique Identifier: 159.118.94.233

## Diane Holt

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**From:** bryandbond@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 9, 2018 2:26 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Bryan Bond

Name: Bryan Bond  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: bryandbond@gmail.com  
Telephone: 208-513-0757  
Address: 2283 N Sunrise Ave  
Boise Idaho, 83713

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Comment: Bryan Bond  
2304 N Sunrise Ave  
Boise, ID 83713

Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Attn: Paul Kjellander, Commissioner  
P O Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Dear Mr. Kjellander,

I am writing you today to discuss the matter of net metering. Specifically as it applies to Idaho Power and their proposal to categorize customers with grid tied solar power systems in a classification separate than that of regular customers with no alternative energy sources. This is an attack on innovation and would inhibit advancement of distributed and clean energy systems in our state. Do you support your fellow Idahoans in their pursuit of sustainable resources and a lower cost of living? It is my opinion that this proposed change on net metering should make it no further than the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in order to protect the future of energy independence for the residents of our beautiful state.

I am a born and raised Idahoan and the future of this state is something I hold very dear to me. I have been living here for thirty-one years and have no plans of leaving. This is also where I choose to raise my son, making issues like this even more important to me. I enjoy a lot of outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, bicycling and spending time in the beautiful parks our city has to offer. I would like to get my son into these same activities and have hopes that he himself can raise children in this city in the future. I am also a homeowner in this city, one that has an all electric house. Even without a mortgage on the property the electric bill in the winter on electric only houses is ridiculously high. I would love to be able to lower my cost of living as would many residents of our beautiful city.

I am writing to you specifically, Mr. Kjellander, because of your involvement not only with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission but your involvement with the state Office of Energy Resources among others. You have quite the background in energy resources and I believe that you can be a great influence in this matter that may allow the citizens of Idaho's voices to be heard in the matter. You have a long standing history of representing Idahoans in all sorts of matters. Please assist us in having our voices heard in this current matter.

Clean energy solutions are extremely important to the future of our state. Helping to increase the quality of the air we breathe. The cleaner our air is the more active the population will be, this will encourage more athletic activities and would result in better health for our children and loved ones. The more active we are outside, the more often we come together as a community in public places. This will result in a stronger sense of community and only help to better us as a whole as Idahoans. Please encourage the advancement of clean air initiatives in our state by collaborating with organizations like the Snake River Alliance who are striving to increase our quality of living and lower our cost of living in our home state.

Founded in 1979, the Snake River Alliance was formed to put an end to the misuse of nuclear waste in order to make Idaho a more livable place for all it's residents. Through the years they have striven to educate Idahoans of the dangers of nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons production and nuclear contamination to our environment. Now they are trying to help people gain access to clean renewable sources of energy such as solar power. They have been involved in stopping nuclear projects such as blocking the construction of the Special Isotope Separator that was being designed in order to manufacture weapons-grade plutonium. This organization has been fighting for the good of Idahoans since it was first founded. Please do consider their stance on this current issue as it is a very well informed opinion they hold.

Distributed, clean energy solutions would give Idaho residents the ability to reduce the cost of living, allowing us to live more active and enjoyable lifestyles. I myself live in an all electric home. The ability to add solar panels to my house would allow me much more freedom in my budget to spend elsewhere across Boise and in our wonderful state. This would allow for local businesses to thrive as well. However, if Idaho Power is allowed to categorize those with solar solutions attached to their house then the benefits of the system dwindle and it would become just another expensive way to obtain energy. This will not benefit the residents of Idaho to classify people generating power in a class of their own, all it will do is make it easy for Idaho Power to increase the rates of those seeking energy independence. Please do not take sides with the Idaho Power proposal and close off yet another avenue us Idahoans have to secure ourselves a more sustainable future.

Cleaner air equals better health. Better health equals a happier and more robust population. Healthier people equal lower medical expenses. The less money people are spending on medical bills the more money they have to circulate through our local economy and locally owned businesses. Please help Idaho by giving small businesses a better chance at thriving. Another reason solar energy would be helpful to small businesses is the fact that by running their own solar energy systems they would have lower overhead and operating costs. This allows business owners to invest more in expanding their businesses rather than wasting unnecessary amounts of money on electricity solutions.

Idaho needs innovative companies to spur economic growth. If we are closed minded and do not support innovations in clean energy and distributed energy systems then we are not only hindering the residents of Idaho, but also local based companies such as the Idaho National Laboratory. They are doing groundbreaking work on the future of battery storage systems. Currently battery storage is not up to par with our solar energy solutions, which is why we desire to have grid tied systems to ensure that we have power available whenever it is needed. The Snake River Alliance shares much responsibility for the research being done by the Idaho National Laboratory, while this is wonderful news, the INL has also conducted a lot of research in the nuclear power and nuclear weapons fields. By hindering the advancement of power storage research we run into an issue where they may be encouraged to focus more on the nuclear sector again. This has many concerns included therein as the INL has in the past been responsible for nuclear contamination of aquifers that supply a large portion of our population with their drinking water. Please encourage the research they are currently conducting on power storage so that we may one day not have to rely on nuclear power whatsoever. Wouldn't you prefer to live in a state that is setting records on the amount of renewable energy sources deployed? Wouldn't you like Idaho to be a place where many future generations can live without worrying about nuclear power plant failures or other contaminates that can cause cancer, birth defects and other horrible illnesses?

With the lack of customers already having solar solutions on their house then this power storage technology that is being worked on would have much less practical use and may be delayed quite substantially. In the past Idaho has flourished because of our technological companies like Micron and Hewlett Packard. Battery storage could be another huge industry that our state could be on the leading edge of. Do you really want play an active role in hindering

this possible technological breakthrough and keeping our economy from getting a much needed boost? Solar systems combined with storage solutions have already reached a point to where they are competitive with coal energy solutions, soon advancements will have it to a state of reliability that will make it competitive with gas as well. Wouldn't Idaho be better off having a head start on this technology rather than being behind the curve?

I believe that Idaho has always been a wonderful place to live, with a good cost of living and many wonderful outdoor attractions. I believe that keeping our utilities cost effective is one of the next steps in making Idaho an even better place for us to live and enjoy our lives. Idaho Power takes a stance that people with solar panels are not paying their share of energy costs here in the state. I believe that is a ludicrous statement. Even with the net metering program in place, customers are only getting credit for excess energy they place into the grid. Other customers, that then utilize this energy but do not have any solar panels themselves, are still paying the usual rate for that electricity. Keep in mind this is electricity that Idaho Power did nothing to contribute to the grid. Charging customers who are adding to the grid a higher rate for the electricity they pull from the grid is not only unfair, but it will hinder others from looking to the future for energy independence. It is already a costly matter to integrate solar panels onto our properties, being charged more than the typical customer for power that we do need to pull from the grid would make this endeavor almost impossible for most to afford. Idaho Power does not stand for the good of Idahoans with this proposal, but rather is standing for themselves and their profit margins. They are looking for a way in which they can make more money off of a system that already exists. Less than one percent of Idahoans have grid-tied solar panels, this is not even enough to make a difference quite yet. Please do not hinder the advancement of energy solutions in our state. Please be on the side of your constituents and allow us to seek a better future for us all here in our great state.

I am confident in your ability to represent your constituents in this urgent matter. You have served this state and it's people for many years and I hope that you will for many years to come. Thank you for hearing my concerns on this matter, I am sure you have received many peoples opinions regarding this matter and I am sure it is a bit overwhelming. I look forward to seeing how the committee responds to Idaho Power in this matter and hope to see a decision that supports a brighter future for us all as Idahoans.

Sincerely,  
Bryan Bond

Unique Identifier: 97.121.23.163