

Meridian, Idaho

October 26, 2011

Dear Rep. Eskridge,

A recent report in the Statesman indicated that your committee was seeking public input in connection with the development of the state energy plan. I would like to offer the following ideas for your consideration.

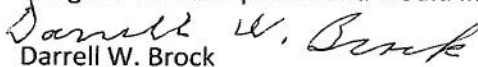
Wind Power: Virtually all of the viable wind power sites in Idaho have already been utilized. We should discontinue development of additional wind power sites.

Natural Gas: Studies have shown that we will have an increasing supply of cheap natural gas during the next 50 years. Natural gas fired turbines are complete and environmentally friendly. Natural gas plants are also ideal to supplement wind power since they can be started up on short notice.

Hydro-electric.: No new hydro-electric plants have been built in Idaho for many years. There are several potential sites on the Boise river and the Snake river. Every time we start talking about a dam the environmentalists start talking about a "loss of recreational opportunities". Some of us remember driving up the Boise river past Arrowrock. I do not ever remember seeing anyone fish or camp on the river below Arrowrock. The construction of Lucky Peak dam created recreational opportunities for thousands of people. It also resulted in the development of a new industry involving boats, motors, wake boards etc. Recent studies have shown that there are several good dam sites on the Boise river. One of these days we are going to have another series of low water years. Additional irrigation water storage on the river is critical for Treasure Valley agriculture. Two dams could be built in the Snake river canyon below the Bliss dam. One could be built above the I-84 bridge near Glens Ferry. The other dam would be built below the I-84 bridge.

We also need to eliminate unnecessary regulations involving the construction of hydro-electric dams. Idaho Power spent millions in connection with the re-licensing of the Hell Canyon dams. This was totally nonproductive and it was paid for by Idaho Power's customers. I have been an avid outdoor sportsman all of my life. I believe that it is time to "blow the whistle" on the environmentalists.

Solar Power: During the last few years solar panels have been getting better and cheaper. European countries have taken advantage of the benefits of solar power. We have not fully utilized this energy source. Part of the resistance to solar is related to the fact that home owners do not want to put solar panels on the front of their house. We need to develop solar subdivisions. The homes could be built on a series of U shaped areas which are open at the north. All the homes would be built facing the inside of the U. Solar panels would be placed on the east, south and west facing roofs. The homes could be designed for solar power and would include space for storage batteries etc.


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