

To the Legislators of the Idaho Interim Committee on Energy, Environment, and Technology:

Thank you for your service to the state of Idaho and for the time that you have dedicated to shaping the energy framework in this state. I know that the current review of the Energy Plan is no simple task, and I appreciate your efforts.

I am writing because I am concerned that little is included in the plan to move Idaho utilities away from salmon-killing dams and climate changing fossil fuel power plants.

Please include a German-style Feed-in Tariff policy recommendation for electricity-producing solar panels.

It should include a guarantee that owners of photovoltaic panels can connect and "net meter" with their power company; a twenty-year contract in which their power company pays a premium for each kilowatt hour generated, for example 20 cents per kilowatt hour; A payment rate set to achieve full compensation for the PV owner's investment plus a 6% profit.; and "degression" which means the rate paid for solar energy decreases annually as the cost of PV arrays declines. (For an explanation of why the German's employ a Feed-in Tariff policy for solar photovoltaics and what it is see the new book Switching to Solar by Bob Johnstone.)

There are many benefits to the German-style Feed-in Tariff policy. First it empowers everyone to produce clean energy, energy without nuclear waste, air pollution or destroyed rivers. Second, everyone can make money producing clean energy. Homeowners, farmers, businesses and utilities can all take advantage of this program by installing photovoltaic arrays on their rooftops or in their fields. Third, economies of scale will be achieved by manufacturers of solar modules and inverters and prices will drop which benefits future owners of photovoltaics. Fourth, thousands of jobs will be created in manufacturing, distributing and installing photovoltaic arrays.

The proof of the effectiveness of the German-style program can be demonstrated in two ways. First, the immense quantity of photovoltaic installations: in 2010, Germany installed 7,400 megawatts of electricity-producing solar arrays. Germany leads the world in the amount of megawatts of solar deployed. Second, the prices of solar panels has plummeted. Panels which cost \$4.30 per watt in 2005, now cost \$1.68 per watt.

As an Idaho citizen and energy consumer, I urge you to include in your Energy Plan a German-style Feed-in Tariff policy recommendation.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to reading your reply.

Reed Burkholder
6105 Twin Springs Drive
Boise, ID 83709
208 323-8355