

City of Hailey

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November 2, 2011

Re: Comments of the City of Hailey Building Official and Sustainability Coordinator on Proposed 2007 Idaho Energy Plan Revisions

Members of the Interim Energy, Environment and Technology Committee:

On behalf of the City of Hailey's Building Official and Sustainability Coordinator, please accept the following comments for consideration as your Committee embarks on revisions to the 2007 Idaho Energy Plan.

The elimination of the following Action Item, Action CE-9, from the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan is a mistake: "Idaho should adopt international building codes on a three-year cycle as a minimum for building energy efficiency standards and should provide technical and financial assistance to local jurisdictions for implementation and enforcement"

Without the continued adoption of the newest International Energy Conservation Codes (IECC), the State's citizens are not protected from future energy price volatility and could be subject to high utility bills in the future. This is especially true when you consider that most buildings have a life span of about 75 years¹.


With each release and subsequent adoption of the newest version of the IECC, the State helps ensure quality construction and design, increased occupancy comfort, and reduced energy bills are provided for all building occupants and owners in Idaho, both commercial and residential.

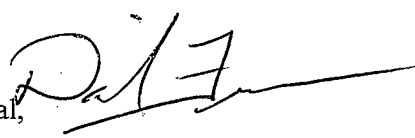
Given that buildings are responsible for approximately half of U.S. energy consumption and green house gas (GHG) emissions annually and are growing faster than any other sector², it is important to ensure that Idaho stays current with the latest IECC and adopt updated versions on a regular basis. This is one of the most significant steps that can be made towards supporting the goal of energy efficiency, due to the significance the building sector has on energy consumption.

Given the challenges with informational and educational efforts regarding the adoption of the 2009 IBC, we respectfully request that instead of deleting the action item, the Committee address the challenge and work diligently towards a solution. If energy efficiency is a goal of the 2012 Idaho Energy Plan, it is important that buildings code be addressed and that buildings remain cost effective and Idaho's industries remain competitive.

Thank you for your work on this very important issue.

Sincerely,


Mariel Platt
Sustainability Coordinator,
City of Hailey


Dave Ferguson
Building Official,
City of Hailey

¹ 2008 Buildings Energy Data Book, Buildings Technologies Program, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, page 3-12

² U.S. Green Building Council