

February 1, 2021

Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Idaho Power Concerns Regarding HB 2475 Differential Energy Burdens

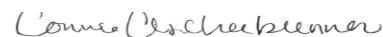
Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2475. For more than 100 years, Idaho Power Company has served customers in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon. We are committed to providing all our customers with reliable and fair-priced energy and actively advocate for all our customer classes. As such, we would like to share possible unintended impacts this proposal may have on our customer's energy bills.

HB 2475 allows the OPUC to consider differential energy burden and other inequities of affordability in rates. As we have shared with the OPUC Commissioners, Idaho Power is concerned about the potential financial impact that its Oregon residential customers may experience if a Percentage of Income Plan (PIPP) is implemented. Idaho Power has less than 14,000 residential customers in Oregon, primarily residing in Malheur County. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income for residents of Malheur County is \$43,313 compared to \$62,818 and \$82,215 for Multnomah and Washington counties, respectively. Idaho Power's service area is far less affluent and more rural than the other electric investor owned utilities operating in the state of Oregon. From our experience, we know that most of our customers experience a similar energy burden and mandating implementation of a PIPP in our service area would be detrimental to many of our customers whose income may be just slightly higher than a qualifying threshold.

Given these dynamics we have concerns about the consideration of differential energy burden when designing rates. We understand that these conversations are likely to continue but hope that the Oregon Legislature and the OPUC continue to consider Idaho Power's unique service area and customer demographics when implementing or considering a program.

Sincerely,



Connie Aschenbrenner
Idaho Power Rate Design Manager