

Editor:

On Sept. 24, Idahoans will take to the streets in a mobile bike rally to call attention to our unhealthy, excessive dependence on fossil fuel energy resources such as coal for electricity and imported oil for transportation. The Boise Bike Rally, part of an international “Moving Planet” day of action to focus on solutions to climate change, begins at noon on the steps of the Statehouse and will run through downtown Boise, passing by the headquarters of key energy decision-makers.

Many Idahoans are unaware that nearly half of our state’s electricity comes from coal plants in surrounding states. Reliance on these dirty, expensive energy relics places Idaho and its three major electric utilities in the awkward position of throwing their lot in with coal in an era when states and utilities elsewhere are decommissioning coal plants for environmental, health, and economic reasons. Already, coal plants in Oregon (Boardman) and Washington (Centralia) have been scheduled for early retirement in 2020 rather than 2040 or beyond. Utilities are replacing coal power first with enhanced energy efficiency and also with renewables, and there is simply no reason for Idaho to cling to a 20th Century energy resource.

The Snake River Alliance recently issued a report on Idaho’s excessive reliance on coal-fired power plants, and that report can be downloaded at www.snakeriveralliance.org.

Ken Miller

Clean Energy Program Director, Snake River Alliance