
Hey, Idaho! Save Solar!

Please submit a Letter to the Editor today on

Idaho Power's Net Metering Proposal

Submit your own 200 word letter at:

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/submit-letter/>

Get the facts about solar!

Clean energy is a force for good

- *Reduces air pollution including particulates, NOx and SOx and health care costs.*
- *Reduces climate change, extreme droughts and unpredictable weather disasters.*
- *Conserves freshwater by reducing use of coal and gas*
- *Saves energy (10-20%) because of "line-losses" associated with centralized power plants.*

Idaho Power customers want more energy independence and innovation

- *Idaho Power is trying to kill solar by making it uneconomic for their customers.*
- *Net metering will help keep solar affordable for middle-class homeowners.*
- *Idaho Power has killed proposals for solar farms by shortening contracts to 2 years, which makes financing impossible.*

The future is "solar plus storage"

- *The percentage of Idahoans going solar is still tiny (0.25%).*
- *But the cost of solar is 1/100th of what it was in the 1970s and still falling!*
- *The cost of storage is also falling as battery efficiencies improve*
- *Solar plus storage is already competitive with coal and soon will be competitive with gas.*

Idaho Power should get ready for the future

- *Idaho Power should innovate with more smart-grid technologies -- like Avista uses to avoid power outages.*
- *Idaho Power should embrace distributed energy – like Green Mountain Power in Vermont – and learn how to profit from it.*
- *Customers want innovations like battery storage options being researched in Idaho.*
- *Idaho Power should encourage solar and distributed energy where it is most valuable and expand time-of-day pricing.*

Sample LTE

Dear Editor,

I think rooftop solar is a great benefit to our community. More solar homes generate clean energy that is used by neighbors and reduces our overall reliance on coal and gas.

Unfortunately, Idaho Power is balking at the idea of more people making this investment. The company appears determined to ultimately kill this nascent industry by attacking the net metering program. What are they afraid of?

Only a quarter of 1% of Idaho Power's customers have solar panels, and yet the company is singling them them out as freeloaders. This is clearly not true.

Solar power sparks innovation and creates local business. For example, the Idaho National Laboratory is doing groundbreaking work on battery storage. This research could be implemented first in Idaho along with other "smart grid" technologies.

I think that Idaho Power should prepare for the future and encourage more distributed energy and more solar. The Public Utilities Commission would be foolish to weaken Idaho's solar industry by approving Idaho Power's proposal.

Links to similar Statesman LTEs

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article157779704.html>

Adam J. Richins, response to Lisa Hecht

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/readers-opinion/article166873927.html>

Lisa Hecht: Energy Independence

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article117648168.html>

Judith Ouderkirk: B2H

<http://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/readers-opinion/article197082809.html>