



November 9, 2016

Blaine County Planning and Zoning Commission  
Blaine County Courthouse  
Hailey, ID 83333

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to approve the conditional use permit application for Idaho Power Company to build a second transmission line between Hailey and Ketchum.

As you know, years of public involvement through the Citizens Advisory Committee lead to the recommendation to construct an additional line from Hailey to Ketchum to increase the reliability of electrical supply to the 9,100 customers currently served by a single transmission line.

While the existing transmission line has been fairly reliable, its age and remote location make sole reliance on this line an unreasonable risk. As many of you will recall, the power outage of Christmas Eve/Christmas Day 2009 was a stark reminder for all of us in the Wood River Valley of how reliant we are on the integrity of our transmission lines. Should our existing single transmission line fail during weather conditions similar to Christmas 2009, the potential for serious risk to people and property is very real. In 2009, the power came back on in Sun Valley after 16 to 18 hours, but the outcome would have been much more severe had it stay out much longer.

In my opinion, this is a simple matter of public safety, and it is unreasonable to allow an area of this size to be served radially, particularly when a straight forward solution is proposed. Please approve the conditional use permit application before you.

Respectfully,

Tim Silva  
Vice President/General Manager  
Sun Valley Resort

