

**TALKING POINTS FOR PACIFIC NORTHWEST INTERNATIONAL SECTION ANNUAL  
MEETING OF AIR AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS:  
"POWERING THE FUTURE"**

**1 p.m. Wednesday, October 17, 2007  
DoubleTree Riverside, Garden City**

**THREE WORDS: CONSERVATION, NUCLEAR, PRO-ACTIVE**

- Good afternoon, and thank you for being here. Let me first acknowledge the role that **Steve Cory** played in bringing you here to Boise for this important conference.
- Many of you know Steve's work at Washington Group and his reputation throughout the region.
- Some of you might also know that he's a second-generation professional in this field. His Dad, Wally Cory, was a former director of Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality.
- So when Steve talks, I tend to listen.
- Let me also acknowledge the great advice and counsel to me and the leadership and direction for our state government that are being provided by our current DEQ director, **Toni Hardesty**.
- (Turn to Toni) ... Thank you Toni. But we're going to have to talk about how often you've got me giving these speeches!
- Folks, it was less than two weeks ago that I joined Toni up at the University of Idaho in Moscow to speak to scientists, academics, technicians, regulators and other experts at a symposium about building a **sustainable energy future**.
- Today your conference's theme is "Powering the Future."
- Maybe it's just me, but I think I'm beginning to pick up on a trend here.

- Seriously though, many of the comments I made at the University of Idaho apply to your discussion here today.
- In considering our future power needs and how to address them, **we MUST balance our public policy decisions with the need to protect the environment.**
- Our challenge is creating and maintaining an economic and regulatory climate where our energy needs are met in a reliable and sustainable way into the future.
- To that end, I've tasked Toni by Executive Order with leading Idaho's efforts to first quantify and then develop a plan for reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.
- That could include swapping some of an agency's existing vehicles with more fuel efficient versions, making modifications to their buildings to make them more energy efficient.
- It also could include using teleconferencing capabilities to reduce travel and fuel use.
- And it could mean developing and coordinating telecommuting plans for state employees.
- Now, there are fewer than 20-thousand state employees in a state of almost one-point-four million people.
- But telecommuting, bicycling or carpooling to work just two days a week can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an average of 15-hundred pounds per household per week. So we CAN make a real different here!
- And reducing greenhouse gases isn't the only benefit we get from telecommuting.
- We also reduce other air pollutants such as ozone, reduce our fuel use and dependence on foreign oil, and reduce congestion.
- Using **information technology** to achieve our goals is NOT a new concept.
- The city of Atlanta was worried about the effects of air pollution on athletes during the 1996 Summer Olympics.

- The mayor issued a directive for employees to **work from home** and avoid commuting during the four weeks of the Olympics.
- During that time, the city saw a 23-percent decline in traffic, a 28-percent decline in ozone levels, and a 42-percent reduction in children's asthma events.
- Now if we can just convince CONGRESS to work from home! We might ALL be better off.
- No, no ... We need Congress to be our PARTNER in this effort.
- But we can't count on Congress leading the way. That's one of the reasons I've added Idaho to the list of states participating in **The Climate Registry**.
- Idaho was the 38<sup>th</sup> state to join the registry, which as you know is working toward effective policies on greenhouse gases by requiring development of a common accounting system.
- Most recently, I created the **state Office of Energy Resources**. That elevated energy policy within my administration from a division within the Department of Water Resources to **full cabinet status**.
- The idea is to increase our focus on energy issues and the impact they will have on a whole range of environmental and economic challenges.
- I also was lucky enough to get Idaho Public Utilities Commission President Paul Kjellander to agree to lead the Office of Energy Resources.
- His experience and knowledge as a regulator and as a former state legislator make him a great choice to provide leadership on energy development, transmission, **CONSERVATION** and coordination of resources.
- In fact, his ability to work collaboratively with the folks at DEQ and other state agencies was among the biggest reasons I chose him for the job.
- Paul even worked with Toni in pushing for me to sign Idaho up for the **National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency**.

- He understands that conservation MUST play a key role in addressing our future energy needs.
- It's the lowest-hanging fruit in our energy orchard, and it just makes good sense.
- By endorsing the National Action Plan recommendations, Idaho is committing itself to making cost-effective energy efficiency a high-priority RESOURCE – an ASSET rather than a hindrance.
- Among other things, that means working to increase the thermal efficiency of buildings and encourage purchases of efficient lighting, appliances and other equipment.
- Here's a great example of putting our conservation assets to work:
- The P-U-C recently approved an order increasing by **six times** the amount of money available for low-income weatherization for one major utility.
- But let me be clear about this: Not all energy-efficiency measures are created equal.
- We must use **common sense and good judgment** to ensure the steps we take are economically sound, fiscally responsible and truly cost effective.
- Speaking of common sense, let's talk for a few minutes about our realistic energy options BEYOND conservation going forward.
- Obviously, hydropower is what's driven Idaho's economic growth and development for generations now. It remains the single biggest source of electricity for Idahoans.
- But while hydro doesn't contribute to greenhouse gases, there are other questions to consider.
- All of us in the Northwest know about the Endangered Species Act and how it's changed the way we do business and formulate public policy.
- So salmon and steelhead are right up there with drought in terms of affecting the future of hydropower in our region.
- Idaho Power also is still working through the process of relicensing its three-dam Hells Canyon complex with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

- That's a slow and complicated process, and the costs it imposes on Idaho Power – and therefore on ratepayers – also will play a role in hydropower's future.
- Now, Idaho isn't the Middle East or Venezuela. We're not even Alaska or Wyoming!
- So even if we didn't have such a critical need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels – and especially fossil fuels from other countries – we wouldn't be in any position to stake our future on those sources of energy.
- Now, I realize that the technology is improving dramatically.
- But I'm not convinced that coal-fired generation – with all the greenhouse gases and other pollutants that it generates – are in our best interest.
- That's why we opted out of the E-P-A cap-n-trade program last year. And while we will continue monitoring technology improvements, concerns around mercury remain too great for us to change that position at this time.
- One of my first initiatives as Governor was signing an Executive Order directing the Idaho Department of Agriculture to lead a **"25 by 25" effort**.
- I created the **Idaho Renewable Energy Council** to work with all state agencies and private industry to search for possible ways to have **25 percent of our energy needs in Idaho met by renewable resources by 2025**.
- We now are getting about 17 percent of our energy from renewable sources, including biomass and biodiesel.
- But even with alternatives and renewables like wind, solar and geothermal gaining a stronger foothold, it will be JUST as important to ensure that Idaho is plugged into the evolving regional **TRANSMISSION** network.
- We're working with surrounding states to ensure that energy from EVERY source gets where it's needed most.

- Now I want to talk with you for a few minutes about a topic that EVERYBODY here in Idaho has an opinion on – **NUCLEAR energy**.
- As I recently told our university presidents, nuclear power MUST be a part of any discussion about Idaho's energy future.
- Idaho has a rich history in nuclear energy and research. The Idaho National Laboratory is a world leader in nuclear technology, from generation to cleanup.
- And our people here in Idaho have grown up with nuclear as a reality, as part of our lives. So leveraging that kind of priceless resource just makes sense.
- I'm not taking a position on any particular nuclear generation proposal. Those need to be considered on their own merits.
- But let me tell you a little about why I think putting the next generation of even safer, cleaner and more efficient nuclear energy to work makes sense for us.
- When I was a boy growing in a family of nine kids in Canyon County, one of my jobs was cleaning the clinkers out of the coal stove, breaking them up and spreading them out in the gravel.
- Now, there were always a few pieces of coal that didn't burned completely mixed in with the clinkers. So I'd gather them up and carry them back to the coal bin to be burned again.
- Sometime I'd end up carrying back in almost as much as I carried OUT.
- For years now nuclear reactors have been a little like that.
- We have only been using a fraction of the power-generating capacity available to us.
- But instead of putting our nuclear "clinkers" back in the fuel bin, we've been calling them waste and preparing to store them forever.

- The next generation of nuclear reactors will use a MUCH bigger percentage of each fuel rod in generating electricity.
- That means more power and less waste – less need for waste storage and less risk to the environment and people.
- And as you know, nuclear power produces NO greenhouse gases.
- Finally, let's talk a little about the federal government.
- Some of you might know that before becoming Governor I spent six years representing Idaho in Congress.
- For the last four of those years I was a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.
- Two of my subcommittee assignments included Energy and Air Quality and Environment and Hazardous Materials.
- So I got pretty familiar with the way the federal government works when it comes to these issues. And let me tell you – in case you have any doubts – we're FAR better off doing it ourselves.
- Part of the problem is that federal solutions tend to be one-size-fits-all. And this is CLEARLY a case where one size definitely does NOT fit all.
- Our responses need to be varied, innovative, and forward thinking.
- That's something the states seem to do better than the federal government.
- Even members of CONGRESS know that.
- I was one of them, and I can tell you that members of Congress listen closely and take good notes when Governors and other state leaders weigh in on policy questions.

- They are the folks who SEE where the rubber meets the road in terms of the IMPACT of policy decisions.
- And just as importantly, they are far more directly accountable to the real people on the ground who are affected by those policies.
- Folks, it's essential that those of us on the state and community levels – in government AND the private sector – NOT WAIT for the federal government to act.
- It's up to US to be the laboratories of the republic, to make the tough choices and address the challenges that will determine our quality of life for years to come.
- When it comes to air quality, for instance, that means doing what has to be done to clean things up and keep them that way.
- The alternative is having the E-P-A swoop in with a nonattainment decision that DIRECTS our actions.
- It means making more of the decisions that impact our economy and way of life in the Legislature and the city council chambers and fewer of them in courtrooms.
- What I'm saying is that being **PRO-ACTIVE** is the ONLY responsible way to ensure that our future is powered the way WE want it to be – efficiently, cleanly, and sustainably. . . . .

Thank you.