

While the legislature is addressing wildfire, and the good neighbor issue, I hope someone is giving consideration to the significant role that transmission lines are having in creating wildfires and the unwillingness of the developers to take responsibility for the increased fire risk they create. For example, Idaho Power is unwilling to place any of their Boardman to Hemingway Transmission line underground even though other developers are doing so to reduce fire risk. Local counties have asked that they provide equipment, staffing and training due to the specialized requirements to fight transmission line and wildfires that most rural fire departments are not prepared to deal with, especially given most of the personnel are volunteers. Requests have fallen on deaf ears. A transmission line not only creates a risk from the actual infrastructure, but it also allows access to vehicles and people into remote areas that normally would not have the kind of exposure they create. When a for profit company is creating a documented increased risk of wildfire they should not be allowed to place responsibility for fighting fires upon resources paid for by local people. The people paying for fire protection are being left with inadequate resources while firefighting crews are being designated by Idaho Power as providing fire protection for fires as a result of their transmission line. This is resulting in the people paying for the protection being left without firefighting resources due to situations created by the utility. What kind of a "good neighbor" is this?