

Wendy Jaquet

Idaho Representative
District 25



Wendy Jaquet

800.626.0471

wjaquet@house.idaho.gov

wendyjaquet.com

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Legislative News - Week Five February 10, 2012

Bill Deadlines: Friday, February 10 was the last day a House member could introduce legislation. It has been a mad scramble, but I made the deadline. Perhaps the legislation I am the most proud of is an extension of the insulation deduction to residences built prior to 2002 when the energy code went into effect. My co sponsor, John Vander Woude introduced the bill in the Energy, Environment and Technology Committee on Monday. The bill, House bill 485, will be heard this next week in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee. The bill could cost the state as much as \$1 million dollars, but will generate jobs, approximately 23 per \$1 million spent in energy efficiencies. As a member of the Energy Interim Committee I believe that this is good legislation that reduces power bills, puts money in the pockets of consumers and creates jobs. Representative Vander Woude thinks this is a good example of tax relief and much more effective than some of the more expensive proposals.

Idaho State Passport: The House Resources Committee is sending the Idaho State Parks Passport to the floor with a do pass. The sticker will be \$10, it is voluntary, you pay at the time of your registration and should generate enough funding that parks will not have to scramble trying to keep our 30 parks ready and rearing for us to use. The Passport will get you into all the parks, but best of all is the provision that you'll get a reduction off your camping pass.

Wendy Jaquet / PO Box 783 / Ketchum, Idaho 83340 / 800.626.0471