

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
3 OF ENERGY, TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED
4 STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REP-
5 RESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, at the direction of the United States government, the U.S.
10 Department of Energy's Idaho site was established in 1949 to demonstrate
11 peaceful uses of splitting the atom through nuclear reactor research and
12 development in its mission to create electricity for commercial use and
13 propulsion for the United States Navy fleet; and

14 WHEREAS, during its history the Department of Energy's Idaho site de-
15 signed and built fifty-two nuclear reactors, perfecting light-water reactor
16 design and operation, proving that reactors could create more fuel than they
17 use, extending the useful life of our country's naval vessels, and provid-
18 ing isotopes to the medical community for the elimination of cancer and other
19 diseases; and

20 WHEREAS, in its sixty-eight-year history, radioactive and hazardous
21 wastes were generated on-site, or were shipped to Idaho, that required
22 storage or disposal using industry-accepted practices at the time, which
23 presented environmental challenges at the 890-square-mile federal site and
24 to the underlying Snake River Plain Aquifer, the primary drinking and agri-
25 cultural water source for more than 300,000 Idaho residents; and

26 WHEREAS, elected officials, federal department administrators, envi-
27 ronmental interest organizations, Idaho citizens, and the nuclear industry
28 itself recognized the need to change past waste storage and disposal prac-
29 tices and clean up legacy waste sites that posed a potential or confirmed
30 risk to people or the environment; and

31 WHEREAS, after several years of assessment and negotiations, the State
32 of Idaho entered into a legally binding agreement with the federal gov-
33 ernment on December 9, 1991, to assess all potential waste sites at the
34 Department of Energy's Idaho site and use the risk-based process outlined in
35 the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act to
36 clean up legacy waste sites with the intent of protecting the second-largest
37 continuous aquifer in the United States and restoring or preserving areas of
38 the site to protect people and the ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock
39 Tribes; and

40 WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and its contractors have completed
41 environmental assessments of all suspected waste sites at the Department of
42 Energy's Idaho site and completed the cleanup actions outlined in twenty of
43 twenty-five records of decision; and

1 WHEREAS, environmental scientists and engineers have employed innova-
2 tive cleanup technologies and processes to protect employees, the public,
3 and the environment, while also expediting the remediation of contaminated
4 sites and saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars; and

5 WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and its contractor continue to make
6 measurable progress removing Cold War weapons waste from an unlined landfill
7 with the aim of protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer -- one of Idaho's
8 most precious natural resources.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
10 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
11 the Senate concurring therein, that, in this twenty-fifth anniversary of the
12 signing of the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, we support the
13 Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress to identify, commit
14 and sustain the necessary funding to allow the Department of Energy to con-
15 tinue to make progress at meeting its cleanup milestones to benefit the citi-
16 zens of Idaho and its environment.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports continued funding
18 for the national and international missions at the Department of Energy's
19 Idaho site to include, but not be limited to, nuclear energy research and
20 development, bioenergy research, renewable energy research, cyber security
21 advancements, smart-grid technology deployments, and national security
22 support to the Department of Homeland Security and other departments.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
24 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
25 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
26 resentatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing
27 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.