

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE BOUNDARY COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT AS THE BEST SMALL LIBRARY IN AMERICA IN 2017.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, in September 2017 the trade publication Library Journal, the most circulated professional library publication in North America, awarded the Boundary County Library District its annual Best Small Library in America designation; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District is one of more than 5,000 small and rural libraries across America; and

WHEREAS, the annual award is given to the small library that best demonstrates innovation in developing services and programs, successfully educating patrons in new technology, developing community support, engaging in partnerships with local schools and businesses, and filling a central role as a community center; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has created a dynamic model for making its community the heart of the library that all of America's small libraries can emulate; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District staff have created a culture of opportunity for the residents of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has been recognized for its services to residents that empower invention, engineering education and entrepreneurship, especially through their Massachusetts Institute of Technology Fab Lab maker space, which offers library patrons local access to cutting-edge technology; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has encouraged youth entrepreneurship and hosts an annual Youth Business Fair that brings measurable economic development to Bonners Ferry; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has been an important partner to a variety of community agencies, educational institutions, local nonprofits and tribal organizations in addressing its rural community needs, including early childhood learning, financial literacy programs, continuing education and job skills retraining; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District is a part of Idaho's dynamic public library system comprised of 146 buildings that were visited 8.6 million times in 2016. The Idaho public library system experienced a 30% growth in program attendance and facilitated at least a 26% increase in internet use by their communities since 2012; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's public libraries are part of the Idaho Library Association, organized to promote state-of-the-art learning and networking opportunities for professional librarians, board trustees, staff and volunteers; and

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho State Librarian has recognized the Boundary County
2 Library District as a model "for the amazing things that can happen when a
3 library director, staff and board truly listen to the needs and aspirations
4 of their community and not only meet those needs but exceed them."
5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
6 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
7 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the
8 Boundary County Library District as one of Idaho's gems, and congratulates
9 it for being named the Best Small Library in America in 2017.