

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 11

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, THE SEC-
3 RETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTEC-
4 TION AGENCY, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
5 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 Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the 43rd state in the United States was named the "Gem State"
10 because of the fertile mountains and the profound history mining has played
11 in Idaho and the settlement of the American West; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has regions that specialize in specific ore,
13 with southeastern Idaho being one of the world's largest reserves of phos-
14 phate and having the ideal ecosystem to produce this specific mineral; and

15 WHEREAS, the supply of phosphate produced at the Itafos Conda facility
16 located north of Soda Springs, Idaho, is used to fertilize millions of acres
17 of land across Idaho, the United States, and the world by assisting in the
18 conversion of other nutrients needed to help crops grow; and

19 WHEREAS, Itafos Conda is committed to returning the area that is mined
20 back to its original landscape; and

21 WHEREAS, Itafos Conda plays a vital role in providing economic stabil-
22 ity to the region through high-paying jobs, taxes, direct and indirect eco-
23 nomic impacts, donations, and community sponsorships; and

24 WHEREAS, once permitted, Itafos Conda's Husky 1/North Dry Ridge project
25 will significantly benefit Idaho's economy by employing a total of 500 em-
26 ployees, bringing in \$180 million to the local economy, totaling \$335 mil-
27 lion statewide, and \$3.5 to \$5.5 million in federal royalty payments, with an
28 additional \$27 million in state and local taxes for a total economic impact
29 in the range of \$367 million per year; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States' dependency on foreign minerals has doubled
31 in the last 20 years, and southeastern Idaho possesses one of the world's
32 largest phosphate ore deposits. The Itafos Conda facility would be one of
33 only a few domestic sources of phosphate, a critical nutrient in the produc-
34 tion of agricultural crops; and

35 WHEREAS, modern regulations require that companies like Itafos Conda
36 set aside adequate financial assurances to cover the cost of environmental
37 restoration, ensuring that reclamation is completed; and

38 WHEREAS, Itafos Conda is committed to being good stewards to the envi-
39 ronment and dedicated members of the community where the plant resides as
40 well as surrounding communities during the life of this project and beyond.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
42 Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
43 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports actions

1 by the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, in partnership
2 with agencies of the great State of Idaho and Caribou County, to move forward
3 to approve the Itafos Conda project in a timely and cost-effective manner to
4 permit the development of the site.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we believe in Itafos Conda's commitment to
6 mining in a way that will serve as a model for modern mining practices.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government agencies should com-
8 mit adequate, experienced, and knowledgeable personnel and sufficient fi-
9 nancial resources to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
10 analysis and issue the Notice to Proceed.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
12 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
13 Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agricul-
14 ture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental
15 Protection Agency, and the congressional delegation representing the State
16 of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.