

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 110

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE; SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING ALL  
2 GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS EMPLOYERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IM-  
3 PLEMENTATION OF TELEWORK POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR THEIR EM-  
4 PLOYEES AND ENCOURAGING THE CONTINUED EXPLORATION AND, TO THE  
5 EXTENT FEASIBLE WITHIN AVAILABLE RESOURCES, ASSISTANCE IN THE IM-  
6 PROVEDMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF THE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IN-  
7 FRASTRUCTURE WHICH WILL AID EMPLOYERS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES IN  
8 MAXIMIZING THE FULL POTENTIAL DEPLOYMENT OF TELEWORK WITHIN  
9 THE STATE OF IDAHO.  
10

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

12 WHEREAS, studies show that “work from home,” or at work sites geographically con-  
13 venient to the residence of the employee, also known as “telework,” has untapped potential to  
14 address the need for significant reductions in energy consumption, carbon dioxide emissions  
15 and traffic congestion, and provides a viable alternative to relocation of workforce to facilities  
16 outside the United States for businesses seeking to reduce costs; and

17 WHEREAS, although such studies also show that nearly 30 percent of employees work at  
18 home at least one day per month, and nearly 45 percent have worked from home at some time,  
19 evidence indicates that more workers want to telework and are even willing to accept less pay  
20 to do so; and

21 WHEREAS, the ability to telework increases leisure time and boosts morale and pro-  
22 ductivity, as well as enables those who are elderly, disabled or have children in the home to  
23 participate more effectively in the workforce; and

24 WHEREAS, telework also benefits those who choose to, or must, commute or use the  
25 roadway system, through the resulting reduction in traffic congestion and less time spent on the  
26 road by teleworkers; and

27 WHEREAS, a workforce that is capable of teleworking on a regular basis is also more  
28 capable of maintaining continuity of operations in the face of a natural disaster, terrorist attack,  
29 or other emergency situation; and

30 WHEREAS, increased traffic, increased congestion and reduced air quality are of increas-  
31 ing concern and cost to the commerce of Idaho and the individual lives of Idahoans; and

32 WHEREAS, if we fail to take positive steps to improve air quality in our communities,  
33 it is likely that portions of Idaho will be designated as air quality nonattainment areas by the  
34 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

35 WHEREAS, a nonattainment designation for an area has a negative impact on economic  
36 development in such areas, and the resultant federally mandated government oversight and im-  
37 position of expensive and time consuming requirements to improve air quality to meet federal  
38 standards will be very costly to the citizens of Idaho; and

1           WHEREAS, traditional solutions such as building roads or alternative transportation sys-  
2           tems such as light rail are expensive, cannot be done quickly, generally impact only targeted  
3           corridor areas and oftentimes require ongoing subsidies; and

4           WHEREAS, traditional employer-employee relationships, coupled with manufacturing  
5           and other location dependent jobs, require use of the transportation system to move the  
6           employee to the job. An information based economy coupled with more flexible employer-em-  
7           ployee arrangements enables many jobs to be moved to the employee through the use of  
8           technology; and

9           WHEREAS, to achieve the full benefits of telework, it is essential that a strategy be  
10          developed to promote and increase its use as a proactive, efficient, widespread and low-cost  
11          solution to aid in reducing traffic and congestion, and to achieve necessary improvement of air  
12          quality and the resulting avoidance of an EPA nonattainment designation, at far greater speed  
13          and with far lower cost than other traditional options.

14          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of  
15          the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein,  
16          that the Legislature does hereby support and encourage all government and business employers  
17          in the development and implementation of telework policies and programs for their employees.

18          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of the State of Idaho and the Idaho  
19          Legislature are hereby encouraged to continue the exploration and, to the extent feasible within  
20          available resources, assistance in the improvement and availability of the appropriate technol-  
21          ogy infrastructure which will aid employers and their employees in maximizing the full poten-  
22          tial deployment of telework within the state of Idaho.