

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY MCGEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 COMMENDING THE IDAHO CHILDREN AND NATURE NETWORK FOR ITS SUCCESS IN RAISING
3 AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN ESTABLISHING A MEANINGFUL
4 AND LASTING BOND WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

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

6 WHEREAS, children today are far less likely than past generations to
7 spend time outdoors; and

8 WHEREAS, a growing body of research indicates that children pay a high
9 physical, mental and emotional price for inactivity resulting in increased
10 childhood obesity, depression, inattentiveness, diminished creativity and,
11 what author Richard Louv has dubbed, "nature deficit disorder"; and

12 WHEREAS, outdoor activities contribute to the physical well-being and
13 happiness of the people of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, resource stewardship is not possible without a strong sense of
15 connection to the natural world that promotes a sense of place; and

16 WHEREAS, Idaho recognizes the troubling trend of disconnection called
17 "natural deficit," where children spend on average seven and one-half hours
18 each day engaged in electronic media such as video games and television, and
19 are spending half as much time outdoors as they did just 20 years ago; and

20 WHEREAS, Idaho is committed to finding solutions to reverse the "natu-
21 ral deficit" trend in Idaho by reconnecting children to the great outdoors
22 through outdoor youth programming, opportunities for recreation on public
23 lands and environmental and natural resource education; and

24 WHEREAS, the "Be Outside - Idaho Children in Nature" initiative is a
25 cooperative effort of state, federal and private partnerships throughout
26 Idaho whose network mission is to: "Connect children with nature in Idaho,
27 from backyards to mountaintops"; and

28 WHEREAS, www.beoutsideidaho.org is a comprehensive resource Idahoans
29 can utilize to post and access outdoor activities and events to encourage
30 outdoor activity for Idaho's youth.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
32 sion of the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Represen-
33 tatives concurring therein, that we recognize the efforts of the Idaho Chil-
34 dren and Nature Network for its success in generating awareness about the im-
35 portance of encouraging Idaho children to find a sense of place, reconnect
36 with nature and be outside with the initiative "Be Outside - Idaho Children
37 in Nature" and we invite citizens to take advantage of the many opportunities
38 our state offers for family outdoor recreational activities.