

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE AD-
3 MINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE CONGRES-
4 SIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE
5 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-second
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has imposed a federal budget
10 sequestration for Federal Fiscal Year 2013; and

11 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transporta-
12 tion, Ray LaHood, and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administra-
13 tion, Michael Huerta, have jointly announced a \$600 million reduction in
14 Federal Aviation Administration expenditures for the remainder of Federal
15 Fiscal Year 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration spending reduction in-
17 cludes, among other measures, the elimination of the midnight shift at more
18 than sixty air traffic control towers, and the closure of more than one hun-
19 dred air traffic control towers at airports with fewer than 150,000 flight
20 operations, or 10,000 commercial operations per year; and

21 WHEREAS, the proposed elimination of the midnight shift at more than six
22 hundred air traffic control towers includes the Boise Tower, located at the
23 Boise Airport (BOI); and

24 WHEREAS, the closure of more than one hundred air traffic control towers
25 at airports, with fewer than 150,000 flight operations, or 10,000 commercial
26 operations per year includes air traffic control towers at the Idaho Falls
27 Regional Airport (IDA), Pocatello Regional Airport (PIH), Friedman Memorial
28 Airport (SUN), Joslin Field-Magic Valley Regional Airport (TWF) and the
29 Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport (LWS); and

30 WHEREAS, the elimination of the midnight shift at the Boise Tower (BOI)
31 would cause a loss of low visibility instrument approaches, eliminate traf-
32 fic separation among aircraft and increase delays due to aircraft waiting
33 for each other to take off or land in poor weather; and

34 WHEREAS, the closure of the air traffic control tower at the Idaho Falls
35 Regional Airport (IDA) would negatively impact air access for support of the
36 Idaho National Laboratory, increase delays due to aircraft waiting for each
37 other to take off or land in poor weather and reduce aircraft incident/acci-
38 dent response; and

39 WHEREAS, the closure of the air traffic control tower at Pocatello Re-
40 gional Airport (PIH) would negatively impact aerial firefighting air tanker
41 services over a three state area and eliminate student flight training when
42 there is a requirement to perform some of that training at a towered airport;
43 and

1 WHEREAS, the closure of the air traffic control tower at the Friedman
2 Memorial Airport (SUN) would negatively eliminate the safe, expeditious
3 flow of aircraft traffic into and out of a challenging mountainous airport,
4 cause safety issues due to the nonstandard runway operations and restrict
5 the maintenance and improvement of commercial air service to the region; and

6 WHEREAS, the closure of the air traffic control tower at Joslin
7 Field-Magic Valley Regional Airport (TWF) would negatively impact agri-
8 cultural aviation in south central Idaho and could reduce aerial wildland
9 firefighting activities; and

10 WHEREAS, the closure of the air traffic control tower at the Lewis-
11 ton-Nez Perce County Airport (LWS) would reduce the availability of field
12 condition reporting, eliminate U.S. Navy flight training capabilities,
13 reduce Coast Guard aircraft use to patrol inland waterways, eliminate
14 sequencing and separation between commercial traffic and the aerial appli-
15 cator aircraft and cause numerous flight delays; and

16 WHEREAS, the shift reduction and closure of air traffic control towers
17 in the State of Idaho would negatively impact the State of Idaho by restrict-
18 ing flight operations, cause flight delays and diminish weather reporting
19 capabilities statewide; and

20 WHEREAS, the shift reduction and closure of air traffic control towers
21 would negatively impact the economy of the State of Idaho by reducing the
22 number of flights and passengers within the state, reduce navigation aid
23 monitoring and repair and increase the cost of flight operations due to de-
24 lays for aircraft waiting for each other to take off or land in poor weather.

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
26 sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
27 and the Senate concurring therein, that the United States Department of
28 Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration are respectfully
29 requested to remove the six Idaho airports from their budget reduction plans
30 regarding the shift reduction to or closure of air traffic control towers
31 within the State of Idaho. Specifically, we urge the United States Depart-
32 ment of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration to refrain
33 from eliminating the midnight shift at the Boise Tower located at the Boise
34 Airport (BOI) and to refrain from closing the air traffic control towers at
35 the Idaho Falls Regional Airport (IDA), Pocatello Regional Airport (PIH),
36 Friedman Memorial Airport (SUN), Joslin Field-Magic Valley Regional Airport
37 (TWF) and the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport (LWS).

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
39 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
40 Memorial to the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation,
41 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, and the congress-
42 sional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
43 United States.