

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND CELEBRATING THE ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO.

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

WHEREAS, political maneuverings finally resulted in the creation of the Territory of Idaho on March 4, 1863, with its western border along Oregon and Washington unchanged today; however, it encompassed all of Montana and most of Wyoming in an area larger than the state of Texas. The three mining regions of this enormous territory were hundreds of miles from each other and separated by great mountain ranges. As a result, Montana territory was stripped off with its present boundaries in 1864 and, when the Territory of Wyoming was created in 1868, Idaho's present boundaries were permanently fixed; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 1890, Idaho became the nation's 43rd state when President Benjamin Harrison signed the Idaho Admission Act; and

WHEREAS, Idaho convened a Constitutional Convention on July 4, 1889, to adopt a State Constitution later ratified by the people of our great Gem State; and

WHEREAS, on July 3, 2015, Idaho will celebrate its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of statehood; and

WHEREAS, the people of Idaho share an abiding pride in the state's pioneer heritage, and the one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of Idaho's admission to the Union offers all Idahoans an opportunity to renew that spirit of independence and self-reliance as we look to the future; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's 82,413 square miles vary geographically from high desert in the south to beautiful forests and rugged mountains in the north; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's state seal was designed by a woman, Emma Edwards Green, and adopted in 1907; Idaho is the No. 1 national producer of potatoes, trout, Austrian winter peas and lentils; Idaho's Hells Canyon is the deepest river gorge in North America, deeper than the Grand Canyon; Sun Valley was created in 1936 as America's first destination ski resort; and Idaho's Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area is home to the world's most dense population of nesting eagles, hawks and falcons; and

WHEREAS, with over one million acres of wilderness area, Idaho has more wilderness than any other state in the lower 48 states, with many national forests that are great for fishing, hiking and hunting, and its backcountry is filled with mountain trails for backpacking and exploring wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the Salmon River, internationally known, bisects the rugged Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and provides some of the best whitewater kayaking and rafting in the world; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is one of only two places in the world where star garnets can be found in any significant quantity, the other being India; and

1 WHEREAS, the network of dams and locks on the Columbia River and Snake
2 River makes the city of Lewiston the farthest inland seaport on the Pacific
3 Coast of the contiguous United States; and

4 WHEREAS, Idaho is home to the Idaho National Laboratory, which is a
5 technological milestone that has forever thrust Idaho into a place of global
6 prominence, that milestone being the world's first production of usable
7 amounts of electricity from nuclear power at the Experimental Breeder Re-
8 actor I (EBR - I); and scientific infrastructure renewal efforts began to
9 accelerate anew in 2005, resulting in the construction or modification and
10 occupation of six new facilities in Idaho Falls and five labs and offices on
11 the Idaho National Laboratory Site between that time and the end of 2010; and

12 WHEREAS, Idaho is home to two persons who have won Gold Medals in recent
13 Olympics - Kristin Armstrong and Picabo Street.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
15 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
16 the Senate concurring therein, that we commend and celebrate Idaho and its
17 people on the state's one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary of statehood.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Historical Society, cities and
19 county historical societies are authorized and encouraged to perform appro-
20 priate ceremonies and celebrations on July 3, 2015.