

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 2

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, THE  
3 SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS AS-  
4 SEMBLED, AND TO 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 First Regular Session of the Sixty-third  
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the Caldera area of the Island Park region in eastern Idaho has  
10 been suggested as a potential national monument that could be established  
11 under the provisions of the 1906 Antiquities Act; and

12 WHEREAS, the current multiple use and private land protections policies  
13 governing the management of this area generally have served the interests of  
14 local residents; and

15 WHEREAS, cattle ranching and agriculture, the main economic drivers in  
16 this area, will be substantially impacted by any land management decisions  
17 regarding this landscape. Agriculture is the single biggest economic con-  
18 tributor to the State of Idaho. Idaho's farms and ranches represent 11.7  
19 million acres in rural Idaho and the sales of farm and ranch projects con-  
20 tribute nearly \$7.6 billion to Idaho's economy. Ranching and farming play  
21 a substantial role in the state's heritage and identity and should be pre-  
22 served; and

23 WHEREAS, a national monument designation affects land use by impos-  
24 ing restrictions on development, resource extraction and land swaps with  
25 resulting local impacts such as diminished economic possibilities and re-  
26 strictions on access; and

27 WHEREAS, the designation suggestion was made without the use of any lo-  
28 cal collaborative process; and

29 WHEREAS, the Idaho Roadless Rule, is Idaho's 2006 plan that provides a  
30 framework for use and protection for more than nine million acres of federal  
31 public backcountry. The rule is held to be a nationwide model of collabo-  
32 ration among groups and individuals with divergent interests and concerns.  
33 The Roadless Rule specifically prescribes protective management under the  
34 "Wildland/Recreation" theme. It is feared that utilization of the Antiqui-  
35 ties Act would overturn the agreement reached in the formulation of the Idaho  
36 Roadless Rule with no effort to reach consensus through collaboration; and

37 WHEREAS, national monument designation would impact local wildlife  
38 managers as well as impact the right to hunt and fish in the area, a place  
39 where Idaho residents, families and visitors can enjoy these Idaho tradi-  
40 tions; and

41 WHEREAS, in the November 2014 election, an advisory vote relating to the  
42 suggested national monument designation was taken in Fremont County, which

1 contains the area of suggested designation. The results were that about 93  
2 percent of the 3,798 voting opposed any such designation.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
4 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
5 the Senate concurring therein, that we oppose any national monument designa-  
6 tion in the Caldera area of the Island Park region in eastern Idaho.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED any efforts to reach decisions regarding lands  
8 of Idaho administered by federal agencies be made by local collaboration,  
9 rather than by unilateral administrative processes that exclude the resi-  
10 dents of Idaho.

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 the Inte-  
14 rior, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Represen-  
15 tatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the  
16 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.