

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE
3 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGRESS, AND THE CONGRES-
4 SSIONAL 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-third
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is examining methods of providing more effi-
10 cient and productive means of freight transport; and

11 WHEREAS, the Idaho State Legislature created a 10-year pilot project in
12 2003 to allow vehicle combinations weighing up to 129,000 pounds on desig-
13 nated routes within the state highway system to test the impacts of such ve-
14 hicles on bridges, roadways and highway safety; and

15 WHEREAS, in its 2013 final report on the results of the pilot project to
16 the Idaho State Legislature, the Idaho Transportation Department concluded
17 that there were no negative impacts to highway safety, pavement or bridges as
18 a result of 129,000-pound vehicles using the state highway system; and

19 WHEREAS, to date, as a result of this pilot project and subsequent des-
20 ignation of additional routes allowing 129,000-pound vehicles to use the
21 state highway system, Idaho has realized additional substantial economic
22 benefits resulting from the utilization of these routes; and

23 WHEREAS, current federal law precludes the State of Idaho from desig-
24 nating any portion of the federal Interstate highway system in Idaho to allow
25 vehicle combinations weighing up to 129,000 pounds; and

26 WHEREAS, interconnecting the designated routes on the state highway
27 system with the federal Interstate highway system in Idaho will provide sub-
28 stantial additional economic benefits; and

29 WHEREAS, due to its configuration, the federal Interstate highway sys-
30 tem in Idaho allows vehicles to operate more safely than on the state highway
31 system, thus further enhancing highway safety; and

32 WHEREAS, Idaho's neighboring states of Montana, Nevada, Utah and
33 Wyoming have higher load limits on their federal highways due to grandfa-
34 thered rights, thus putting Idaho at a distinct competitive disadvantage and
35 slowing the free flow of freight between neighboring states; and

36 WHEREAS, the Idaho congressional delegation has introduced legislation
37 in the present Congress providing legal authority to the State of Idaho to
38 determine whether to allow vehicles weighing up to 129,000 pounds on the fed-
39 eral Interstate highway system in Idaho.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
41 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
42 the Senate concurring therein, that we urge and petition the Congress of the
43 United States to enact the pending legislation introduced by the Idaho con-

1 gressional delegation providing legal authority to the State of Idaho to de-
2 termine whether to allow 129,000-pound vehicles on the federal Interstate
3 highway system in Idaho.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
5 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
6 Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate
7 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, and the con-
8 gressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
9 United States.