

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 11

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS
3 ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE
4 OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the Columbia-
9 Snake River System as part of the United States Marine Highway network; and

10 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the Columbia-
11 Snake River System and its tributaries, collectively and in its entirety, as
12 a multiuse system providing navigation, transportation, fish and wildlife
13 habitat, recreation, hydropower generation, flood control and irrigation to
14 the citizens and industry of the Pacific Northwest; and

15 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the vital con-
16 tribution the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries, functioning
17 collectively and in its entirety, make to the state's economic well-being
18 and to the quality of life of our citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho asserts sovereign control over all water re-
20 sources within the state; and

21 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes that the
22 anadromous fish decline is due to many factors, including increased preda-
23 tion, unfavorable ocean conditions and harvest; and

24 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the efforts
25 by Northwest families, farmers, ranchers, organizations and businesses in-
26 vesting billions in fish passage and habitat improvements resulting in 97.5
27 percent average survival for juvenile Chinook and 99.5 percent for juvenile
28 steelhead migrating downstream through the Lower Snake River dams; and

29 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the legal pri-
30 ority that agriculture irrigation and industrial applications of water have
31 within the state; and

32 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the Port of
33 Lewiston, Idaho's only seaport, is part of the collective Columbia-Snake
34 River System and is an asset of the State of Idaho and to the Inland North-
35 west region, providing global competitiveness and connectivity for regional
36 products, economic development investment and multimodal transportation;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the Columbia-
39 Snake River System as the top wheat export gateway in the United States, with
40 approximately 16 percent of all U.S. wheat exports barged through at least
41 one of the Snake River dams; and

42 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes barging as the
43 most fuel efficient mode of transportation; and

1 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes hydropower as
2 the most efficient, environmentally favorable form of electrical genera-
3 tion, combatting global warming by offsetting at least 3 million metric tons
4 of CO2 emissions per year through use of the Lower Snake River dams while pro-
5 ducing 1,000 megawatts of carbon-free, renewable energy annually, and 3,000
6 megawatts for peak power emergencies; and

7 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho believes that any actions
8 to degrade the functionality, in whole or in part, to remove or breach dams
9 on the Columbia-Snake River System or its tributaries, or take water from
10 the state for anadromous fish enhancement efforts, would inflict on the cit-
11 izenry of the state a loss in economic and trade opportunities, a loss of
12 recharge waters for the state's aquifers, a loss of navigation and trans-
13 portation, an increased risk for floods, an increase in electrical rates,
14 a shortfall in power generation, a loss of recreational opportunities and a
15 threatened quality of life for Idaho citizens.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
17 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
18 the Senate concurring therein, that Idaho opposes the removal or breaching
19 of the dams on the Columbia-Snake River System and its tributaries, has
20 sovereignty of its water resources, prohibits contributions of water from
21 Idaho's reservoirs for flow augmentation except those expressly authorized
22 by state law, that efforts for further recovery of anadromous fish must be
23 undertaken in a manner based on sound science, and supports maintenance and
24 multiple use benefits of the Columbia-Snake River System. Additionally, the
25 Idaho Legislature recognizes and supports the international competitive-
26 ness, multimodal transportation and economic development benefits provided
27 by the Port of Lewiston.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
29 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
30 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
31 resentatives of Congress, and the congressional delegation representing the
32 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.