

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 5

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE
4 STATE 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-fifth
7 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, sixty-three percent of all land in Idaho is publicly managed by
9 the federal government and exempt from property taxation; and

10 WHEREAS, there are eight Idaho counties having seventy-five percent or
11 more of all lands within their political boundaries managed by the federal
12 government; and

13 WHEREAS, private land continues to be sold or transferred to the federal
14 government; and

15 WHEREAS, the act of selling or transferring private lands to the federal
16 government has the effect of reducing the overall taxable market value of a
17 county, thereby shifting the tax burden within the county to other private
18 property owners, including homeowners; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal government has established programs to provide
20 payments in lieu of taxes to counties for federally managed lands; and

21 WHEREAS, total payments to counties through these payment programs, in-
22 cluding the loss of payments from the Secure Rural Schools Act, continue to
23 decline, further straining the ability of counties in rural Idaho to provide
24 critical public services; and

25 WHEREAS, these payment programs have failed to fully cover the actual
26 loss of property taxes that would otherwise be collected on lands sold or
27 transferred to the federal government; and

28 WHEREAS, in many counties these payment programs are insufficient to
29 offset the loss of market value and resulting tax shift for lands that are
30 sold or transferred from private ownership to the federal government.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
32 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
33 the Senate concurring therein, that in order to provide fair and equitable
34 funding to Idaho's forty-four counties for the loss of revenue due to private
35 land being sold or transferred to the federal government, we urge Congress to
36 enact federal legislation to require that when private lands are exchanged,
37 purchased, or transferred to the federal government that other federal lands
38 within the county must be sold.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the lands sold by the federal government be
40 substantially equivalent in market value to the lands acquired and comply
41 with local land use planning goals.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature encourages federal
43 land management agencies to take into account the effect of transferring

1 private land to federal ownership on counties and their taxpayers, including
2 the ability of local governments to provide necessary public services and
3 the extent of any tax shift that will occur as a result of the land transfer.

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 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing
8 the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.