

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 136

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING THE IDAHO STATE DEPART-
3 MENT OF AGRICULTURE UTILIZING RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INTE-
4 GRATED FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION (REDIFIT) PROGRAM MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE
5 OF CREATING SPECIFIC AND COST-EFFECTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ADDRESS
6 CURRENT CHALLENGES IN THE EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODI-
7 TIES AND OTHER MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS TO MARKET.

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

9 WHEREAS, Idaho's freight transportation system connects rural and ur-
10 ban Idaho with vast market opportunities abroad; and

11 WHEREAS, the ability to effectively and efficiently transport commer-
12 cial products is vitally important to the state's economic health; and

13 WHEREAS, trucking and rail are critical components of Idaho's freight
14 system; and

15 WHEREAS, agriculture, timber, mining, and manufacturing produce large
16 quantities of products bound for domestic and international export; and

17 WHEREAS, Idaho's shippers, particularly shippers of perishable prod-
18 ucts, have experienced significant volatility in the availability of
19 freight transportation; and

20 WHEREAS, Idaho's trucking industry is vital but has faced significant
21 workforce and regulatory challenges; and

22 WHEREAS, Idaho is home to Union Pacific Railroad's main artery to the
23 Pacific Northwest; and

24 WHEREAS, rail is able to move one ton of freight 444 miles on one gallon
25 of fuel; and

26 WHEREAS, Idaho has knowledgeable short line railroads that provide in-
27 valuable connections between shippers and other freight transportation; and

28 WHEREAS, targeted improvements to rail and trucking freight infra-
29 structure could better ensure the continued prosperity of shippers, trans-
30 porters, and communities; and

31 WHEREAS, Idaho has historical freight information and analyses that may
32 be utilized to create actionable recommendations that account for freight
33 industry changes as well as economic development and opportunities.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
35 Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
36 Representatives concurring therein, that we support the Idaho State Depart-
37 ment of Agriculture utilizing Rural Economic Development and Integrated
38 Freight Transportation (REDIFIT) program moneys for the purpose of cre-
39 ating specific and cost-effective recommendations that address current
40 challenges in the efficient movement of agricultural commodities and other
41 manufactured products to market.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
43 shall consider freight opportunities with an emphasis on economic develop-

1 ment for Idaho's existing industries as well as specific challenges in the
2 shipping of perishable commodities.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to include stakeholders and account
4 for regional opportunities and challenges, the Idaho State Department of
5 Agriculture, as quickly as possible, is encouraged to seek the service of a
6 qualified firm with documented freight transportation policy and planning
7 expertise.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that freight recommendations should account for
9 the livelihoods of shippers, truckers, railroads, and the operators of other
10 transportation modalities.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that once a recommendation is created, the Idaho
12 State Department of Agriculture shall report it to the next regular session
13 of the Idaho Legislature.