

Chairman Gibbs & Members of the House Resource & Conservation Committee:

Please accept my regrets, as I will not be able to attend the Committee meeting set for Tuesday, March 3, 2020. At that meeting, you will hear testimony about H-565 (flood control district annexation) and SJM 110 (Columbia-Snake River Water System). The Idaho Water Users Association (IWUA) supports these bills urges your support.

H-565 provides a much needed process for the annexation of lands into flood control districts. The bill is patterned after similar processes, already in Idaho Code, for the annexation of lands into Irrigation Districts.

SJM110 speaks to the Legislature's support of the Columbia and Snake River water system. This river system provides significant benefits to Idahoans throughout the state – including recreational opportunities, low cost power, water for irrigation and a navigation system that provides Idaho's farmers with ready access to world markets. It also provides a livelihood to thousands of families and small businesses in Idaho's ag communities.

H-565 and SJM110 are good bills and we join our friends providing testimony at the hearing in asking for your support.

I understand you may also hear testimony on a stockwater bill sponsored by Speaker Bedke and Representative Boyle. IWUA's legislative committee discussed an early draft of the legislation at it last committee meeting. IWUA supports the efforts of the Speaker and Representative Boyle to ensure that stockwater development and use is consistent with Idaho law. We will not be able to take a formal position on this legislation prior to the hearing.

Thank you, Paul

Paul L. Arrington
Executive Director & General Counsel
Idaho Water Users Association
1010 W. Jefferson, Ste. 101
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 344-6690 (office)