



March 1, 2023

Chairman Burtenshaw, Members of the Senate Resources & Conservation Committee:

On March 6, your committee will consider S1112, relating to Bear Lake. Unfortunately, I am unable to participate in the hearing as I will be in Idaho Falls for member meetings. ***The Idaho Water Users Association's (IWUA) legislative committee has considered S1112 and urges your support.***

IWUA represents approximately 300 canal companies, irrigation districts, ground water districts, municipal and public water suppliers, hydroelectric companies, aquaculture interests, agri-businesses, professional firms and individuals throughout Idaho. Our purpose is to promote, aid and assist in the development, control, conservation, and preservation of Idaho's water resources.

Bear Lake provides many benefits to Idaho and the local communities. These benefits include including irrigation, hydropower generation and recreational opportunities. Importantly, however, water users in southeast Idaho face many pressures on their use and enjoyment of Bear Lake. These pressures arise largely from the multiple demands placed on the lake, including, from the state of Utah.

S1112 provides a legislative declaration of the value of Bear Lake to Idaho and urges continued collaboration amongst Idaho stakeholders to "preserve and enhance" our state's interests. Such efforts are vital to the continued protection of the valuable resource.

IWUA appreciates Senator Harris and other proponents of S1112 for engaging the water users in reviewing and providing comments on this legislation. S1112 is good legislation and should be enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Arrington", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Arrington, Executive Director