

SENATE JOURNAL OF THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

**ELEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DAY
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026**

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 11 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senator Ricks, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jace Rackham, Page.

The Senate advanced to the Third Order of Business.

Reading and Correction of the Journal

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that the Senate Journal of the proceedings of January 21, 2026, was read and approved as corrected.

LAKEY, Chairman

There being no objection, the report was adopted and ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifth Order of Business.

Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

SJM 106

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has abundant wildlife and open space and relies on the agricultural and livestock industries, which, in turn, rely on Idaho's open space. However, these industries are often negatively impacted by depredating wildlife such as wolves and grizzly bears; and

WHEREAS, owners and operators of livestock operations within the State of Idaho often have federal livestock grazing permits to graze livestock on land owned by the United States Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management; and

WHEREAS, Idaho residents and policymakers have been struggling for years to address the negative impact depredating wildlife has on the agricultural and livestock industries; and

WHEREAS, even though Idaho law supports hunters helping control wolf populations, livestock is still being slaughtered by depredating wildlife, primarily by wolves and grizzly bears; and

WHEREAS, livestock depredation directly and significantly harms the owners' livelihoods, the local community's morale, and the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, to help offset the loss of the livestock, the state has created the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board and the Idaho Depredating Wildlife Appeals Board, both of which oversee claims of depredation and distribute compensation; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Idaho Legislature that owners and operators of livestock operations are not reporting claims of depredation to the state depredation boards for fear of federal retaliation in the form of materially modifying or revoking their federal grazing permits; and

WHEREAS, the nation is reliant on the agricultural and livestock industries, and the livelihoods of the owners and operators of such industries are persistently threatened by depredating wildlife, which state law attempts to redress but cannot when our citizens fear federal retaliation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby calls on the Trump administration and Congress to protect Idaho's agricultural and livestock industries by mandating that claims of depredation are not basis for materially modifying or revoking federal grazing permits and directing the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to promulgate rules protecting grazing permittees from the federal government modifying or revoking grazing privileges based on claims of wildlife depredation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, and the United States Secretary of the Interior.

SJM 107

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the profound role mining has played in the settlement of Idaho, its contemporary role, and the role it will play in our future; and

WHEREAS, Idaho, the 43rd state in the Union, was named the Gem State because of the immense role played by mining in the settlement of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, responsible resource development is of the utmost importance for our state and country right now; and

WHEREAS, gold is a critical mineral, necessary for electronics, machinery, dentistry, medicine, aerospace, and coinage, among other uses; and

WHEREAS, silver is a critical mineral, necessary for energy, transportation, technology, infrastructure, medicine, and consumer products; and

WHEREAS, mining activity for critical minerals, including gold and silver, has taken place at the DeLamar Mine in Owyhee County, Idaho, since 1863; and

WHEREAS, the mining company Integra Resources is seeking to reinvigorate the DeLamar Project to unearth critical resources, thereby increasing our domestic supply of those resources; and

WHEREAS, Integra Resources takes pride in providing high-paying job opportunities for Idaho workers, building collaborative relationships, and investing in the long-term resiliency of Idaho's rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Integra Resources is committed to three core values: integrity, care, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Integra Resources is committed to the highest reclamation standards and supporting a return to productive multiple-use of the landscape once mining operations cease; and

WHEREAS, Integra Resources is committed to being good stewards of the environment and a dedicated member of the community where it operates; and

WHEREAS, as an example of Integra Resources' dedication to being an engaged member of the community, it has reached an agreement with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation that establishes a transformative and collaborative long-term partnership for the development of the DeLamar Project that recognizes tribal sovereignty and supports the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes as drivers of responsible economic development in the region while protecting Shoshone-Paiute values, interests, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Integra Resources continues to demonstrate this dedication by establishing other collaborative relationships within the local community and financially investing in Owyhee County, and, by extension, Idaho's future, by offering donations, scholarships, and in-kind support; and

WHEREAS, through high-paying jobs, tax revenues, donations, community sponsorships, and other direct and indirect economic impacts, Integra Resources is essential to the region's economic stability and keeping Idahoans working in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, once permitted, Integra Resources' DeLamar Project will significantly benefit Idaho's economy, especially in regard to Owyhee County, its local businesses, and the surrounding communities, through quality family-wage job creation, potential to generate over \$570 million in federal and state taxes at spot metal prices of \$4,200/oz for gold and \$60/oz for silver, and increased revenue for local businesses through the utilization of local vendors; and

WHEREAS, modern regulations require that companies like Integra Resources set aside adequate financial assurances to cover the cost of environmental restoration, ensuring that reclamation is completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature supports actions by the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, in partnership

with agencies of the great State of Idaho and Owyhee County, to move forward and approve Integra Resources' DeLamar Project in a timely and cost-effective manner so that the site may be developed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the appropriate federal agencies to commit adequate experienced and knowledgeable personnel and sufficient financial resources to complete the National Environmental Policy Act analysis and issue the applicable permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature believes in Integra Resources' commitment to mining in a way that serves as a model for modern mining practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

[SJM 106](#) and [SJM 107](#) were introduced, read at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

The Senate advanced to the Sixth Order of Business.

Reports of Standing Committees

January 22, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [SJR 102](#), [S 1224](#), and [S 1225](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[SJR 102](#) was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[S 1224](#) was referred to the Transportation Committee.

[S 1225](#) was referred to the Education Committee.

January 21, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports it has had under consideration the Gubernatorial reappointment listed below and the Committee recommends that said reappointment be confirmed by the Senate:

Scott Smith to the Commission of Pardons and Parole, term to expire January 1, 2029.

LAKEY, Chairman

The Gubernatorial reappointment was referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

January 21, 2026

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports it has had under consideration the Gubernatorial appointments listed below and the Committee recommends that said appointments be confirmed by the Senate:

Megan Ronk to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights, term to expire July 1, 2028;

Salvador Cruz to the Treasurer's Investment Advisory Board, term to expire July 1, 2028.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

The Gubernatorial appointments were referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eighth Order of Business.

Messages from the Governor

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I am hereby transmitting to the Idaho State Senate a list of all gubernatorial appointments that have not been previously communicated pursuant to title 67, section 803 of the Idaho Code.

Additional appointments made during this session will be submitted forthwith with the appropriate corresponding information for your consideration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
/s/ Brad Little
Governor

The correspondence was ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eleventh Order of Business.

Introduction, First Reading, and Reference of Bills, House Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

S 1226 BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE AN ACT

RELATING TO SAMPLE COLLECTIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 25, TITLE 19, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 19-2512A, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION OF A DNA SAMPLE AND THUMBPRINT IMPRESSION IN CERTAIN INSTANCES; AMENDING SECTION 19-5501, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS; AMENDING SECTION 19-5502, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE A TERM AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 19-5506, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING OFFENDERS SUBJECT TO SAMPLE COLLECTION; REPEALING SECTION 19-5507, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR, TIMING OF, AND SITE FOR A SAMPLE COLLECTION; AMENDING CHAPTER 55, TITLE 19, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 19-5507, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR, TIMING OF, AND SITE FOR A SAMPLE COLLECTION; REPEALING SECTION 19-5510, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO APPLICABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1227 BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 70, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR LEGISLATIVE INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR DEFINITIONS, TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK, TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ADOPT CERTAIN POLICIES, TO REQUIRE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP CERTAIN STANDARDS, ASSESSMENTS, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR PARENTAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR PROCUREMENT REQUIREMENTS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR RULEMAKING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[S 1226](#) and [S 1227](#) were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate returned to the Ninth Order of Business.

Messages from the House

Senator Ricks was recorded present at this order of business.

January 22, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith [HCR 22](#), which has passed the House.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

[HCR 22](#) was filed for first reading.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eleventh Order of Business.

Introduction, First Reading, and Reference of Bills, House Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

[HCR 22](#), by State Affairs Committee, was introduced and read at length.

Moved by Senator Den Hartog, seconded by Senator Wintrow, that all rules of the Senate interfering with the immediate consideration of [HCR 22](#) be suspended. The question being, "Shall the rules be suspended?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 35.

More than two-thirds having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the rules suspended and announced that [HCR 22](#) was before the Senate for final consideration.

On motion by Senator Adams, seconded by Senator Ruchti, [HCR 22](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered returned to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifteenth Order of Business.

Miscellaneous Business

On motion by Senator Den Hartog, seconded by Senator Wintrow, by voice vote, the Senate adjourned at 11:52 a.m. until the hour of 10:45 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary