

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING ADVANCEMENT OF STATE ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY.

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

WHEREAS, Idaho participates in interstate energy markets and benefits at times from cost-effective imported power, particularly during seasonal fluctuations, and at other times from being able to sell excess power to neighboring states, with financial benefits directly benefiting Idaho customers; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is a net energy importer, and as such, long-term energy security, ratepayer protection, and state sovereignty require that imported energy supplement, but not replace, secure in-state base load generation that is capable of sustaining Idaho's residential, agricultural, commercial, industrial, and mining-related energy demand under all seasonal and water conditions; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's economy and workforce, including its national laboratory, agricultural producers, mining operations, advanced manufacturing facilities, and rural communities, depend on affordable and reliable energy that is responsibly developed and selected by electric utilities to meet the needs of Idahoans in a least-cost and least-risk manner; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer is a critical ground water resource supporting Idaho agriculture, rural communities, and economic stability, and its protection is a matter of statewide importance; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has formally expressed opposition to the Lava Ridge project, citing documented concerns regarding impacts to agriculture, the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer, aviation safety, wildlife habitat, and Idaho's natural landscapes; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that transmission infrastructure constructed that does not benefit Idaho utility customers and does materially harm agriculture, critical water resources, or rural communities is inconsistent with the expressed policy position of the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's long-term reliability and grid stability require secure, dispatchable base load generation capable of continuous output independent of weather variability, including advanced and conventional nuclear energy technologies, hydroelectric plants, and natural gas generation; and

WHEREAS, Idahoans rely on affordable, dependable energy from responsibly developed natural gas generation that provides flexible, on-demand power and supports energy security through locally owned and operated resources; and

WHEREAS, all major transmission infrastructure projects that materially affect Idaho ratepayers must demonstrate a clear, measurable, and durable net benefit to Idaho ratepayers, measured by reduced long-term cost exposure, strengthened in-state energy security, and tangible benefits to

1 Idaho's in-state energy and economic interests, before approval or cost al-
2 location is permitted at the state level.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
4 sion of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
5 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature of the State of Idaho
6 formally acknowledges that transmission projects built in Idaho must demon-
7 strate a clear, measurable, and durable net benefit to Idaho ratepayers as
8 demonstrated by utility-integrated resource plans.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standards expressed in this Resolution
10 are intended by the Legislature to guide state-level permitting, siting re-
11 view, and any cost recovery proceedings before the Idaho Public Utilities
12 Commission, which ensures that Idaho ratepayers are not required to subsi-
13 dize infrastructure that does not benefit Idaho utility customers or is in-
14 consistent with Idaho's base load reliability priorities.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature affirms that private prop-
16 erty rights, local land use authority, and the protection of agricultural
17 and rural communities are paramount considerations in the siting and review
18 of any major transmission infrastructure within the State of Idaho, and that
19 the use of eminent domain should be strictly limited to the purposes allow-
20 able under Idaho law.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the advancement
22 of responsibly developed conventional and advanced nuclear technologies,
23 hydroelectric generation, geothermal, and natural gas generation as the
24 proper foundation for Idaho's future energy system and as the preferred
25 means of providing secure base load energy for Idaho citizens and indus-
26 tries, including the necessary major transmission resources to move energy
27 from its generation source to Idaho citizens.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages Idaho-regulated
29 public utilities to continue to review and analyze utility participation in
30 any interstate energy market to ensure participation in such markets does
31 not conflict with Idaho's commitment to reliable, dispatchable base load
32 generation, ratepayer protection, private property rights, and state energy
33 sovereignty.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
35 the Governor of the State of Idaho, members of the Idaho Public Utilities
36 Commission, Idaho-regulated electric utilities, and Idaho's congressional
37 delegation.