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February 11, 2026

Idaho Senate Resources and Environment Committee
700 W Jefferson St
Boise, ID 83702

RE: Support for HJM009

Dear Idaho Senate Resources and Environment Committee,

I am writing today to express the Idaho Mining Association's (IMA) **support for HJM 9**, which urges congress to reaffirm that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) is the primary determination in federal land management and land exchanges.

In 1976, FLPMA was enacted by congress to provide clarity and cohesiveness in the management of multi-use public lands. FLPMA provides a clear and predictable framework for land exchanges and disposals. In Idaho, we are no stranger to public lands as a majority of our state land is federal. FLPMA ensures that any land exchange in the state of Idaho is executed in a manner that allows for public opinion, and takes into account communities, recreation, development, and conservation.

In 2020, Simplot finalized a three-decade long effort – under the guidelines of FLPMA – to exchange private land for 700 acres of BLM land next to its Pocatello fertilizer production plant. The exchange secured future operations thereby preserving critical economic benefits to the region as well as continued production of domestic fertilizer a key to our nation's security.

But a recent court order decision, (*Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation v. U.S. Department of the Interior and J.R. Simplot Co.*) upends FLPMA's authority and locks up hundreds of acres of federal land.

The decision, which has been litigated at the ninth circuit, has the opportunity to reverse Congress' comprehensive land management framework in FLPMA. If unaddressed, this decision could lock up thousand of acres of land, undo already completed land exchanges, disrupt management on land in the west, and provide uncertainty for communities and business.

Idaho's vast geological landscape offers a unique opportunity for our state to help secure a domestic supply chain of critical and strategic minerals, including phosphate. The phosphate industry has been a long-standing industry in Idaho and supports much of our economic development. HJM 9 encourages congress to reaffirm FLPMA's intent, and to address this consequential decision for the state of Idaho. The Idaho Mining Association appreciates the

continued effort from the state of Idaho to address this issue, and we urge your **support for HJM 9**. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Davenport", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Benjamin Davenport
Executive Vice President
Idaho Mining Association