



IDAHO MINING ASSOCIATION

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March 25, 2026

Idaho Legislature  
700 W Jefferson St  
Boise, ID 83702

**RE: Support for HB 898**

Dear Idaho Legislature,

I am writing today to express the Idaho Mining Association's (IMA) strong **support for HB 898** regarding the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Currently housed under the State Historical Society, SHPO manages the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) which requires all federal agencies to consider how their projects may affect historic properties.

For some mine sites in Idaho, the project's property may include historic properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places. During the NEPA process, each proposed mine project will go through SHPO to consider possible historical effects of the proposed project. SHPO's intended duties is to work with federal agencies and their applicants to ensure Idaho's historic places have a voice in the process. HB 898 proposes the transition of SHPO to the newly formed Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination (SMEC) while maintaining the intent and purpose of the office.

The mining industry and project proponents thoughtfully work through the permitting process to ensure all requirements are sufficiently met. Unfortunately, the mining industry still faces extensive delay in the permitting process at both the state and federal level. The newly established Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination (SMEC) is intended to support mineral and energy projects through permit coordination. The Idaho Mining Association believes that shifting SHPO from the Idaho State Historical Society to SMEC adequately aligns Idaho's permitting coordination efforts. We kindly ask for the Idaho Legislature's **support of HB 898**. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Davenport", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benjamin Davenport  
Executive Vice President  
Idaho Mining Association