

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 14

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fifth 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 forty-third state in the Union, was named the "Gem State" because of the immense role played by mining in the settlement of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the State of Idaho contains the symbolic representation of the miner because of the historical importance of mining in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has diverse geologic and mineral resources within its boundaries, including world-class deposits of silver, phosphate, and cobalt as well as numerous and robust deposits of gold, molybdenum, antimony, rare earth elements, thorium, lead, copper, zinc, and numerous other minerals and gems; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho state song "Here We Have Idaho" references Idaho's vast resources of silver and gold; and

WHEREAS, mining in Idaho has shaped the state's political boundaries, built cities, and supplied the nation with minerals necessary for today's modern lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the discovery of gold along Canal Gulch near Pierce, Idaho, in 1860 set off one of the largest migrations in American history; and

WHEREAS, the significant discovery of gold in the Boise Basin led to the founding of Boise City as a supply outpost for the Boise and Owyhee mining districts, thereby leading to the establishment of Boise as the capital of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, one hundred years after the discovery of silver in the world-renowned Coeur d'Alene mining district, the one billionth ounce of silver was produced there, as well as vast amounts of lead, zinc, and copper; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's world-class phosphate district plays a significant role in advancing the agricultural needs within our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the prevalent role mining plays in our modern lives and will play in our future; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's mining industry has played a significant role in national defense by providing the raw materials necessary to defend our nation in times of conflict; and

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the vital part the mining in-
2 dustry plays in providing economic stability to the region, especially rural
3 economies, through high-paying jobs, taxes, direct and indirect economic
4 impacts, donations, and community sponsorships; and

5 WHEREAS, mining and mine processing provide more than 10,000 direct and
6 indirect jobs throughout Idaho, with a payroll of \$570 million, a total tax
7 contribution of \$88 million, and an economic impact of almost \$1 billion to
8 the gross state product; and

9 WHEREAS, the mining industry is dedicated to modern mining practices
10 that promote the responsible extraction of minerals while being protective
11 of the environment and emphasize land restoration as mine life progresses;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the importance of domesti-
14 cally sourced minerals for national independence and defense, as it buffers
15 reliance on imported minerals; and

16 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the necessity and use of
17 mined minerals in virtually every aspect of our modern lives, including com-
18 puter chips, telephones, automobiles, medical devices, electricity, roads
19 and bridges, public infrastructure, recreation, freight, buildings and
20 dwellings, health and beauty products, recreational equipment, and renew-
21 able energy; and

22 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the invaluable future the
23 mining industry plays not only in Idaho but also the entire United States of
24 America; and

25 WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature recognizes the work that the Bureau of
26 Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and other federal agen-
27 cies are doing to simplify the permitting process for infrastructure and
28 mining projects.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
30 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
31 the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports the actions
32 of the Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies, in partnership
33 with state agencies, to move forward and recognize the importance of mining
34 in the history, development, and future of the Gem State.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
36 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
37 Memorial to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agricul-
38 ture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Administrator of the Environmental
39 Protection Agency, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House
40 of Representatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation repre-
41 senting the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.