

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING THE 2018 SETTLEMENT
3 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITIES, THE SURFACE WATER COALITION, AND MEMBERS
4 OF IDAHO GROUND WATER APPROPRIATORS TO RESOLVE LITIGATION, AVOID CUR-
5 TAILMENT, MAINTAIN SUSTAINABLE GROUND AND SURFACE WATER SUPPLIES ON THE
6 EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER, AND MINIMIZE HARM TO IDAHO'S ECONOMY, SUP-
7 PORTING STATE MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER GROUND
8 WATER MANAGEMENT AREA TO ENSURE THAT EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN AQUIFER WATER
9 SUPPLY ISSUES ARE TIMELY ADDRESSED, AND SUPPORTING THE CONTINUED FUND-
10 ING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EFFORTS TO SATISFY THE GOAL OF STABILIZING AND
11 REVERSING THE TREND OF DECLINING WATER LEVELS IN THE EASTERN SNAKE PLAIN
12 AQUIFER.

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

14 WHEREAS, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 138 was adopted during the
15 2016 legislative session, supporting the settlement agreement entered into
16 on June 30, 2015, between participating members of the Surface Water Coali-
17 tion (SWC) and participating members of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators
18 (IGWA) to avoid potential curtailment, to take actions to maintain sustain-
19 able ground and surface water supplies on the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer
20 (ESPA), and minimize harm to Idaho's economy; and

21 WHEREAS, in November 2016, the director of the Department of Water Re-
22 sources designated the ESPA Ground Water Management Area (GWMA); and

23 WHEREAS, the ESPA cities opposed designation of the GWMA; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2018, the cities entered into a settlement agreement with
25 IGWA and SWC, with the agreement covering ESPA municipal pumping; and

26 WHEREAS, key provisions of the agreement are that the cities will pro-
27 vide aquifer enhancement activities and the participating cities, in turn,
28 will have safe harbor from SWC and IGWA delivery calls for up to 35 years; and

29 WHEREAS, as part of the agreement, participating cities will withdraw
30 opposition to GWMA designation and will support continued funding of state-
31 sponsored efforts to further the goal of stabilizing and reversing the water
32 level declines in the ESPA.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
34 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
35 the Senate concurring therein, that the State of Idaho supports the 2018 set-
36 tlement agreement between the cities, the SWC, and members of the IGWA to re-
37 solve litigation, avoid curtailment, maintain sustainable ground and sur-
38 face water supplies on the ESPA, and minimize harm to Idaho's economy.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Idaho supports state management
40 through the ESPA GWMA to ensure ESPA water supply issues are timely addressed
41 and supports continued funding and implementation of efforts to satisfy the
42 goal of stabilizing and reversing the trend of declining water levels in the
43 Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.