

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY RUBEL

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IDAHO.

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

WHEREAS, Idaho resource-based economies are critical to Idaho's future; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a vital sector of Idaho's economy. The crops, livestock and other agricultural products produced in Idaho contribute more than \$8 billion in total cash receipts to Idaho's economy each year; and

WHEREAS, many Idaho industries rely upon relatively stable and predictable climatic conditions to prosper; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that the global atmosphere is warming at rates unprecedented in the historical record; and

WHEREAS, seventeen of the eighteen warmest years on record have occurred since 2001; and

WHEREAS, 2016 was the hottest year on record, with 2017 and 2015 being the second and third hottest years on record according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's forests, rangelands, parks, lava fields, waters, public lands, fish and wildlife are a part of Idaho's natural heritage and represent critical elements of Idaho's history, development, custom and culture; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence and intensity of storms, floods, droughts and wildfires have impacted many Idaho communities with documented monetary and social costs; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking with increasing frequency, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, snowpack is melting earlier in the year, and the flow of melt water into streams during summer is declining; and

WHEREAS, as noted in the 2012 Idaho Water Plan, evidence suggests that the Earth's climate is warming and that changes in climate conditions will likely be an important factor in determining the costs and benefits of additional water storage; and

WHEREAS, a National Climate Assessment study shows earlier winter snowpack melt contributes to drier landscapes and longer wildfire seasons, allowing wildfires to spread on private, state and local lands when they start; and

WHEREAS, a Columbia University study found climate change has doubled the size of areas burned each year by wildfires; and

1 WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that fire seasons are an average of
2 seventy-eight days longer today than they were in the 1970s; and

3 WHEREAS, many states are taking action to reduce the activity that con-
4 tributes to climate change and to prepare for the expected impacts; and

5 WHEREAS, the leaders of Idaho must inform themselves of significant
6 threats to Idaho's people and economy and have an obligation to pursue rea-
7 sonable efforts to reduce the adverse impacts of those threats; and

8 WHEREAS, Idaho has immense renewable energy resources that have the po-
9 tential to yield enormous economic benefits and jobs in the state; and

10 WHEREAS, many jurisdictions in the United States and throughout the
11 world, including Idaho's trading partners, have adopted policies focused
12 on limiting carbon emissions, and it is likely that in the future they will
13 require trading partners to address carbon emissions.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
15 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
16 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to
17 appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the causes and im-
18 pacts of climate change on Idaho's agriculture, water resources, wildlife
19 and public health, to study the potential policy options that are consistent
20 with federal and state law, to explore economic opportunities arising from
21 increased use of renewable energy and decreased use of fossil fuels, and to
22 make recommendations on the mitigation of the causes and impacts of climate
23 change in Idaho and on renewable energy economic opportunities. The Leg-
24 islative Council shall determine the number of legislators and membership
25 from each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee
26 to receive input, advice and assistance from interested and affected parties
27 who are not members of the Legislature.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may
29 be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Leg-
30 islative Council. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall
31 not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage or other ex-
32 penses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recom-
33 mendations or proposed legislation.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,
35 recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Ses-
36 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature.