

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 1

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OREGON STATE LEGIS-
3 LATURE, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE STATE OF
4 IDAHO AND THE STATE OF OREGON IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

5 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
6 the State of Idaho assembled in the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sev-
7 enth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

8 WHEREAS, the Portland metro area is home to approximately 47% of Ore-
9 gon's voters, while accounting for less than 4% of the state's landmass; and

10 WHEREAS, this small urban area is setting policy for the entire State of
11 Oregon and is determining how all people in the State of Oregon, both urban
12 and rural, are governed; and

13 WHEREAS, rural Oregonians are becoming increasingly frustrated with
14 their state government and the trampling of their values and are seeking
15 a state government that is more in line with their rural values and re-
16 source-based economy; and

17 WHEREAS, governance by the State of Idaho would align much more closely
18 with the values and interests of eastern Oregonians, as indicated by eastern
19 Oregon's history of voting in favor of Idaho's majority political party at
20 least as strongly as Idaho does; and

21 WHEREAS, much of eastern Oregon has voted against the legalization of
22 marijuana and the decriminalization of hard drugs; and

23 WHEREAS, historically, state boundaries have been relocated by inter-
24 state compacts approved by the states affected and by Congress; and

25 WHEREAS, a November 2021 poll found strong support among Idaho voters
26 for relocating the Oregon/Idaho border; and

27 WHEREAS, the residents of eastern Oregon currently have the same aver-
28 age income as residents of Idaho; and under Idaho's lower tax rates and reg-
29 ulation, the economy of eastern Oregon would surge, benefiting the State of
30 Idaho; and

31 WHEREAS, eastern Oregon has many resources that would be highly benefi-
32 cial to Idaho, some of which include water, timber, and minerals, making the
33 area a tremendous addition to Idaho's tax base; and

34 WHEREAS, as of January 2023, eleven eastern Oregon counties have ap-
35 proved ballot measures that indicate their desire to become counties of
36 Idaho; and

37 WHEREAS, citizens of eastern Oregon have requested that the govern-
38 ment of the State of Idaho engage in discussions with the government of the
39 State of Oregon to craft an interstate compact that would relocate the Ore-
40 gon/Idaho border.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
42 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
43 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature stands ready

1 to begin discussions with the Oregon Legislature regarding the potential to
2 relocate the Oregon/Idaho state boundary, in accordance with the will of the
3 citizens of eastern Oregon, and we invite the Oregon Legislature to begin
4 talks on this topic with the Idaho Legislature.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
6 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
7 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives of the Oregon Legislature and to the congressional delegations
9 representing the State of Idaho and the State of Oregon in the Congress of the
10 United States.