

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 3

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT  
3 OF ENERGY, TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED  
4 STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REP-  
5 RESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

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

9 WHEREAS, at the direction of the United States government, the U.S.  
10 Department of Energy's Idaho site was established in 1949 to demonstrate  
11 peaceful uses of splitting the atom through nuclear reactor research and  
12 development in its mission to create electricity for commercial use and  
13 propulsion for the United States Navy fleet; and

14 WHEREAS, during its history the Department of Energy's Idaho site de-  
15 signed and built fifty-two nuclear reactors, perfecting light-water reactor  
16 design and operation, proving that reactors could create more fuel than they  
17 use, extending the useful life of our country's naval vessels, and provid-  
18 ing isotopes to the medical community for the elimination of cancer and other  
19 diseases; and

20 WHEREAS, in its sixty-eight-year history, radioactive and hazardous  
21 wastes were generated on-site, or were shipped to Idaho, that required  
22 storage or disposal using industry-accepted practices at the time, which  
23 presented environmental challenges at the 890-square-mile federal site and  
24 to the underlying Snake River Plain Aquifer, the primary drinking and agri-  
25 cultural water source for more than 300,000 Idaho residents; and

26 WHEREAS, elected officials, federal department administrators, envi-  
27 ronmental interest organizations, Idaho citizens, and the nuclear industry  
28 itself recognized the need to change past waste storage and disposal prac-  
29 tices and clean up legacy waste sites that posed a potential or confirmed  
30 risk to people or the environment; and

31 WHEREAS, after several years of assessment and negotiations, the State  
32 of Idaho entered into a legally binding agreement with the federal gov-  
33 ernment on December 9, 1991, to assess all potential waste sites at the  
34 Department of Energy's Idaho site and use the risk-based process outlined in  
35 the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act to  
36 clean up legacy waste sites with the intent of protecting the second-largest  
37 continuous aquifer in the United States and restoring or preserving areas of  
38 the site to protect people and the ancestral lands of the Shoshone-Bannock  
39 Tribes; and

40 WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and its contractors have completed  
41 environmental assessments of all suspected waste sites at the Department of  
42 Energy's Idaho site and completed the cleanup actions outlined in twenty of  
43 twenty-five records of decision; and

1           WHEREAS, environmental scientists and engineers have employed innova-  
2     tive cleanup technologies and processes to protect employees, the public,  
3     and the environment, while also expediting the remediation of contaminated  
4     sites and saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars; and

5           WHEREAS, the Department of Energy and its contractor continue to make  
6     measurable progress removing Cold War weapons waste from an unlined landfill  
7     with the aim of protecting the Snake River Plain Aquifer -- one of Idaho's  
8     most precious natural resources.

9           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
10    sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
11    the Senate concurring therein, that, in this twenty-fifth anniversary of the  
12    signing of the Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, we support the  
13    Department of Energy, the Administration and Congress to identify, commit  
14    and sustain the necessary funding to allow the Department of Energy to con-  
15    tinue to make progress at meeting its cleanup milestones to benefit the citi-  
16    zens of Idaho and its environment.

17           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports continued funding  
18    for the national and international missions at the Department of Energy's  
19    Idaho site to include, but not be limited to, nuclear energy research and  
20    development, bioenergy research, renewable energy research, cyber security  
21    advancements, smart-grid technology deployments, and national security  
22    support to the Department of Homeland Security and other departments.

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
24    tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
25    Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-  
26    resentatives of Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing  
27    the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.