

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

## Sixty-fifth Legislature

First Regular Session - 2019

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

## BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

## A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE OFFICE OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION OF THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION.

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

WHEREAS, three dams have been constructed on the Boise River that provide storage for commercial and municipal uses, flood protection, recreational opportunities, river maintenance flows, irrigation storage, and other uses, and provide nearly \$1.5 billion in value contributions to Idaho's economy; and

WHEREAS, the three on-river dams are Anderson Ranch Dam, Arrowrock Dam, and Lucky Peak Dam, and they provide a total water storage capacity of 1,044,011 acre feet; and

WHEREAS, studies show that additional water supplies will be needed to meet future demands as the state population continues to grow; and

WHEREAS, additional water infrastructure would provide opportunities to meet current and future water demands; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Idaho Water Resource Board (IWRB), the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) identified potential raises to the existing dams on the Boise River that may be cost-effective and provide additional water storage capacity; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Reclamation began feasibility and environmental studies to consider raising Anderson Ranch Dam to provide an additional 29,000 acre feet of storage space; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho, through the IWRB, has authorized the payment of \$3 million to pay for 50% of the feasibility and environmental studies for Reclamation's Boise River study; and

WHEREAS, the remaining 50% is funded with federal moneys through the Water Infrastructure Improvements for our Nation Act (WIIN Act), which authorizes up to 50% of the cost of Reclamation infrastructure projects to be paid by the federal government based on the proportion of federal benefits received from the infrastructure project; and

WHEREAS, Reclamation has established a time line to complete the feasibility and environmental studies for the Anderson Ranch Dam raise by June 2020; and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the feasibility and environmental studies, any future construction authority and additional WIIN Act funds would require congressional action; and

WHEREAS, based on preliminary planning estimates anticipating that the cost of raising Anderson Ranch Dam could be \$40 million, the nonfederal share of the project costs would be at least \$20 million.

1       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
2 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
3 the Senate concurring therein, that we support the construction of new wa-  
4 ter infrastructure in Idaho and, in particular, the raising of the Anderson  
5 Ranch Dam.

6       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature urges the congres-  
7 sional delegation for the State of Idaho to take any further actions nec-  
8 essary to: (1) ensure that the feasibility study and NEPA analysis for the  
9 Anderson Ranch Dam raise are completed within the proposed timeframe; and  
10 (2) as determined in the feasibility study, advance the project through ad-  
11 dditional congressional action to authorize construction and provide further  
12 WIIN Act funds.

13      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature urges the IWRB, Corps,  
14 Reclamation, water users, and other stakeholders to consider other infra-  
15 structure projects to address future water needs, including but not limited  
16 to raising of Arrowrock, Lucky Peak, Minidoka, and Island Park dams.

17      BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-  
18 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this  
19 Memorial to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in  
20 the Congress of the United States and to the office of the Pacific Northwest  
21 Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.