

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 104

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

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

WHEREAS, the Mountain Home Air Force Base draws its water supply from the Mountain Home Aquifer. The aquifer is over-drafted by about 30,000 acre-feet annually and is declining approximately two feet per year; and

WHEREAS, there are water quality issues in some of the wells that the Mountain Home Air Force Base depends on for its water supply. Of the six main wells that are on the base, only two are safe sources of drinking water and four are contaminated. Of the four contaminated wells, one is high in nitrates and is used strictly for irrigation, and the other three are high in nitrates and perfluorinated compounds; and

WHEREAS, the state, in partnership with the United States Air Force is working on the Mountain Home Air Force Base Sustainable Water Supply Project. The purpose of the project is to provide a sustainable, long-term water supply for the base from the Snake River and to eliminate the base's reliance on the declining Mountain Home Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the project consists of a pump station at C.J. Strike Reservoir and a 14.4 mile long pipeline to bring Snake River water to the base, as well as construction of a water treatment plant at the base; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the state will build, own, maintain, and operate the pipeline and the pumps and that the United States Air Force will build, operate, and maintain the water treatment plant, as well as anything downstream of the plant; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Home Air Force Base is one of the largest employers in Idaho. According to a 2016 study, the base is responsible for the direct employment of 4,686 personnel, supports an additional 190 jobs in local businesses that directly supply the base's operations, and is responsible for 2,127 jobs supported by the consumer spending of those who are directly and indirectly employed by the base; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Home Air Force Base has been estimated to support the employment of more than 10,500 individuals; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Home Air Force Base generates \$462 million in labor income; \$797 million in all forms of income including wages, salaries, interest, rent, and profit; and an output of goods and services valued at \$965 million; and

WHEREAS, a 2010 Economic Impact Analysis by the United States Air Force, assisted by Boise State University, shows that the estimated annual economic

1 impact from the Mountain Home Air Force Base is approximately \$1.02 billion;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho and the Department of Commerce recognize
4 that continued economic viability requires taking care of existing business
5 before expanding economic development and attracting new business; and

6 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that there could be another round of Base Re-
7 alignment and Closure in the near future; and

8 WHEREAS, Mountain Home Air Force Base has many strong attributes, such
9 as great airspace, many clear weather days suitable for flying, and low pos-
10 sibility of encroachment around the base; and

11 WHEREAS, the uncertainty of a dependable water supply necessary for fu-
12 ture operation is the only weakness that jeopardizes the future of Mountain
13 Home Air Force Base.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
15 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
16 resentatives concurring therein, that we support the construction of a new
17 pipeline to bring Snake River water to Mountain Home Air Force Base to ensure
18 the long-term viability of the base.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature urges the con-
20 gressional delegation for the State of Idaho to take any further actions
21 necessary to advance the pipeline project through additional congressional
22 action to authorize construction and provide further Military Construction
23 (MILCON) Funds.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
25 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
26 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of
27 Congress, and to the congressional delegation representing the State of
28 Idaho in the Congress of the United States.