

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE OF CITIES
IN IDAHO AND SUPPORTING THE PRIORITIZATION OF LOCAL CONTROL.

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

WHEREAS, Idaho's cities are home to 76.3% of the state's population, a proportion that has steadily increased, reflecting the growing importance of urban areas; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's localities collectively maintain 34,556 miles of roads and vital infrastructure that support the state's transportation and economic systems, making up 64.8% of the total roads in the state; and

WHEREAS, over 71% of Idaho's businesses are located within city boundaries, contributing significantly to the state's economy, with urban areas generating the majority of retail, service, and industrial activity; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments provide essential services, including public safety, utilities, parks and recreation, and more, which directly impact the quality of life of Idaho's more than 2 million residents; and

WHEREAS, local governments collectively spend over \$1.1 billion annually on first responders and public safety, which makes up the majority of city and county property tax budgets, demonstrating the commitment of cities to the safety and well-being of their residents; and

WHEREAS, local governments play a critical role in public safety by employing 2,716 patrol officers certified in Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training to serve Idaho communities, which is nearly seven times the number of such officers provided by the state, underscoring the indispensable role of municipal law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, local officials are excellently positioned to address the unique needs of their communities, as they possess firsthand knowledge and direct accountability to their constituents; and

WHEREAS, state-imposed mandates and preemption of local authority can hinder cities' ability to implement innovative, tailored solutions to address housing, infrastructure, and public safety challenges; and

WHEREAS, adequate local revenue tools are necessary for cities to maintain services and infrastructure without overreliance on property tax or other restrictive funding mechanisms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature recognizes the value of local governance and encourages a collaborative approach that respects the ability of cities and municipal governments to make decisions in the best interests of their residents. The Legislature encourages meaningful consultation between state agencies, the Governor, and municipal governments when developing policies that impact local communities. Additionally, the Legislature generally supports efforts to uphold and reinforce local deci-

1 sion-making authority, enabling municipal governments to effectively ad-
2 dress essential needs, such as housing, infrastructure, and public safety.
3 Lastly, the Legislature affirms the importance of local control, recogniz-
4 ing that decision-making at the community level leads to effective and re-
5 sponsive outcomes for Idaho residents.