

IN THE SENATE

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 101

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, THE MEMBERS OF THE IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD, THE DIRECTOR OF THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, AND 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-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the United States Bureau of Reclamation completed the construction of the Teton Dam in 1976 to provide irrigation water, flood protection, electrical power, and water-based recreation; and

WHEREAS, the dam suffered a catastrophic failure as the reservoir was being filled with water for the first time; and

WHEREAS, the investigation of the dam's failure determined that, although geological factors played a role in the disaster, design and operational decisions and a lack of information also played a role and that the collapse of the dam was avoidable; and

WHEREAS, additional water storage in the Eastern Snake Plain continues to be a priority to help address extended periods of drought, population growth, and other demands associated with limited water resources in the state; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Idaho Department of Water Resources identified the Teton Dam reconstruction as one of two potential large-scale storage projects that warrant consideration; and

WHEREAS, studies on other river basins have concluded that there are several potential sites that would provide additional water storage, could be built safely and economically, and would provide significant long-term benefits to the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, potential projects include rebuilding the Teton Dam and enlarging the Minidoka Dam, Jackson Lake Dam, Twin Springs Dam, Galloway Dam, and Lost Valley Dam; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's water resources are vital to the state's economy, agriculture, and growing population, making long-term water storage solutions a critical priority; and

WHEREAS, rebuilding the Teton Dam would assist with the production of affordable electricity, provide greater security of water supplies to the region, and create valuable new recreation opportunities for the region.

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 we support an update to recent studies conducted by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and other water policy

1 organizations on the total water storage available in Idaho and additional
2 opportunities for new storage, including the replacement of the Teton Dam.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the Bureau of Reclamation, the
4 United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Governor of the State of Idaho,
5 the Idaho Water Resource Board, the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and
6 other federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate with the residents of
7 the State of Idaho in updating or conducting studies to identify and con-
8 struct additional water storage in Idaho, including reconstruction of the
9 Teton Dam.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is
11 hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the
12 Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, the Commissioner
13 of the Bureau of Reclamation, the United States Army Corps of Engineers,
14 the Governor of the State of Idaho, the members of the Idaho Water Resource
15 Board, the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, and the con-
16 gressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
17 United States.