

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY AND MEANS NECESSARY OF WHAT WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO TO OBTAIN PRIMACY OVER REGULATION OF WASTEWATER DISCHARGES TO SURFACE WATER.

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

WHEREAS, government that is the closest to the people is the best and most responsive government; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the Department of Environmental Quality to have primacy over regulation of wastewater discharges to surface water under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program; and

WHEREAS, entities seeking or complying with a NPDES permit are subject to distant interaction and must get decision making by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding issues with wastewater treatment and disposal; and

WHEREAS, it would be a great benefit to municipalities, industry and society to determine the costs and feasibility of the NPDES program as well as the authority that would be given to the state of Idaho by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to operate the program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-first Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the resources necessary and any change in statutes or rules to obtain primacy over the regulation of wastewater NPDES program. The Legislative Council shall determine the number of legislators and membership from each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee to receive input, advice and assistance from interested and affected parties who are not members of the Legislature. The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality is requested to assist the interim committee in providing information regarding the cost of such an endeavor, necessary funding sources and necessary statutory or rule changes that need to occur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Legislative Council. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage or other expenses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recommendations or proposed legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings, recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature.