## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 33

## BY TRANSPORTATION AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND COMMENDING BRIAN W. NESS FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO AND WISHING HIM WELL IN HIS RETIREMENT.

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

WHEREAS, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Director Brian W. Ness will retire on May 27, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness served as an employee of the Iowa Department of Transportation for three years and of the Michigan Department of Transportation for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness is the Idaho Transportation Department's longest-serving director, at over 12 years; and

WHEREAS, under Director Ness's leadership the department successfully reorganized by eliminating layers of management from nine to five; and

WHEREAS, during Director Ness's tenure, the department reduced red tape by 45%; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Director Ness worked with the Legislature and Governor to secure additional transportation funding for the first time in two decades; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness initiated an innovation program that utilizes thousands of ideas from frontline employees and has resulted in millions of dollars in savings and efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness has made ITD a model for all other state agencies in terms of customer service, employee satisfaction, and cost-cutting solutions to everyday problems; and

WHEREAS, many of the programs and policies Director Ness created at ITD have been adopted as regional and national models; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness has led ITD to be recognized as a national leader in innovation by numerous organizations, including the Federal Highway Administration, the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness has been called on by the White House and United States Congress to give voice to rural states like Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the department has won 20 American Association of State Highway Technical Officials President's Awards, more than any other state in the country; and

WHEREAS, the department has received 175 national awards and employee honors during his leadership; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Director Ness worked with Governor Brad Little and the Legislature to secure \$60 million in new, ongoing transportation revenue as well as onetime investments as part of Governor Little's "Leading Idaho" plan for statewide transportation and congestion mitigation projects; and

WHEREAS, Director Ness's leadership, innovative thinking, and hard work have truly left a mark on the department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that we commend Brian W. Ness for his positive contributions and his years of service to the Idaho Transportation Department and the State of Idaho and wish him well in his retirement.