

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 52

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL-
ISM TO STUDY AND DRAFT LEGISLATION RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL,
AND GOVERNANCE STANDARDS.

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

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature and the people of Idaho acknowledge the Idaho Constitution and the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land that cannot be usurped in any form or by any outside forces, including those that may come from outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, the rights and freedoms of the people of Idaho are increasingly threatened by the alliance of large corporations, banks, investors, and governmental entities in their efforts to impose environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards; and

WHEREAS, ESG standards are intended to alter how businesses and investments are evaluated so that instead of focusing on the quality of goods and services, profits, and other traditional economic metrics, businesses and investments are instead evaluated based on various environmental, social justice, or corporate governance causes and assigned scores so that they can be compared, rewarded, or potentially punished according to such factors; and

WHEREAS, central banks, governments, and wealthy investors have invested trillions of dollars into ESG-related investments; and

WHEREAS, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), a group supported by the Biden administration, claims to have more than 450 banks, insurers, and other asset managers in dozens of countries as members, as well as \$130 trillion in assets; and

WHEREAS, the widespread use of ESG standards by central banks, financial institutions, corporations, and governments threatens to restrict individual and economic rights and to usurp legislative processes, the Idaho Constitution, and the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum, has called for a fundamental change to Americanism when he said, "the world must act jointly and swiftly to revamp all aspects of our societies and economies, from education to social contracts and working conditions. Every country, from the United States to China, must participate, and every industry, from oil and gas to tech, must be transformed. In short, we need a 'Great Reset' of capitalism"; and

WHEREAS, Larry Fink, the CEO of Blackrock, the world's largest asset management company, and most powerful person on Wall Street, promises to use ESG scores as a way to alter society. Fink has said, "every company and every industry will be transformed by the transition to a net-zero world... The question is, will you lead, or will you be led?"; and

1 WHEREAS, the threat to our individual freedoms from the use of ESG stan-
2 dards will increase significantly if the Federal Reserve adopts a digital
3 currency, which could help banks and governments track all spending across
4 the entire U.S. economy; and

5 WHEREAS, according to a report by the accounting firm KPMG, thousands of
6 companies located in more than 50 countries already use ESG standards, in-
7 cluding 82% of large companies in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, ESG standards are designed to create a "great reset" of capi-
9 talism and to revamp all aspects of our society and economy, from education
10 to social contracts and working conditions; and

11 WHEREAS, free market capitalism requires a level playing field and the
12 ability to compete; and

13 WHEREAS, various states have considered legislation to address the
14 risks of ESG to their citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, legislative efforts to curtail the usage and impact of ESG
16 standards have focused on divestment from financial institutions and other
17 businesses that discriminate against vital state sectors and the elimina-
18 tion of ESG, social credit, or similar metrics that allow discrimination in
19 providing goods and services to individuals and businesses; and

20 WHEREAS, states, local businesses, and families should be able to con-
21 trol their rights, freedoms, and choices; and

22 WHEREAS, protecting those proper rights and freedoms is the fundamental
23 role of our government; and

24 WHEREAS, the Legislature's Committee on Federalism is authorized pur-
25 suant to Section 67-9301, Idaho Code, to "monitor and review federal acts,
26 laws, and regulations that may impact the jurisdiction, governance, and sov-
27 ereignty of the state of Idaho."

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
29 sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
30 the Senate concurring therein, that the Committee on Federalism, the spon-
31 sors of this resolution, and the Idaho State Treasurer, where appropriate,
32 at the direction of the Idaho Legislature, shall work with concerned parties
33 to study the topic of ESG standards and shall draft legislation that protects
34 the State of Idaho and its citizens from the use of ESG standards.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee on Federalism shall report its
36 findings and recommendations, along with the proposed legislation, to the
37 Legislative Council in November 2022 and to the First Regular Session of the
38 Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature.