

Mark Young

- Idaho National Laboratory is a critical economic asset to the entire State of Idaho – and particularly to eastern Idaho.
- It employs roughly 4,100 people, making an average salary of over \$92,000 annually, and is the sixth largest private sector employer in the state.
- It contributes a positive value of \$1.9 billion to Idaho's total economic output.
- In 2016, it subcontracted more than \$130 million of work to Idaho businesses, and contributed more than \$620,000 to charitable giving – the majority of those funds spent in Idaho and focused on education.
- I sight these statistics to give you a sense of how important the Lab is to our economy and how important it is that as a state, we collaborate with INL in every way possible to protect this important asset and ensure it remains healthy and vibrant.
- This partnership, and the effort to build two new facilities in collaboration with the State Board of Education, not only protects the important role INL plays in our economy – it enhances it.
- A recent economic analysis estimated that by 2020, the two new proposed facilities will add an annual economic impact of \$101.7 million to Idaho's economy. A total of 545 jobs will be created or sustained as a result of both facilities. And construction of the buildings will create or sustain 987 jobs over the 300-day construction phases. Construction of the facilities will have a total economic impact of more than \$130 million. The two facilities would increase statewide personal income by a combined amount of \$41.5 million each year and the average annual salary for employees at the two facilities is expected to be over \$126,000.
- The facilities will enhance the cyber security and super computing capabilities of our state's colleges and universities – allowing them to expand in these critical areas of importance to the nation and the entire world.
- They'll enhance our ability to move toward another goal we all share – providing opportunities for our state's best and brightest students to find a career, and grow their families, right here in Idaho.
- The facilities, and the collaboration with the universities, will create a talent pipeline in Idaho that will feed not only businesses that are already operating in our state, but help us attract new businesses and industries that need a specialized and trained workforce.
- Other states are partnering with their DOE labs in significant ways to protect those labs and grow their capabilities. This proposal presents a great opportunity to do the same – while protecting the state's taxpayers and establishing an educational asset for decades to come.
- For those reasons and many more, I urge you to support the Resolution before you.