



1           WHEREAS, the USBR and the USACE have completed the phase 1 updated flood  
2 risk evaluation and additional water storage and feasibility study at Ririe  
3 Reservoir, which has shown how the reevaluation of winter flood control op-  
4 erations could retain flood control benefits while also providing valuable  
5 storage benefits during some years; and

6           WHEREAS, the USBR completed a Draft Environmental Assessment: Ririe  
7 Winter Storage Study for Ririe Dam and Reservoir in 2014 that compares No  
8 Action to Alternative 1 with a finding of no significant natural resource or  
9 socioeconomic impact; and

10          WHEREAS, legislation, including the Water Infrastructure Improvements  
11 for the Nation Act, has been passed by Congress to facilitate efforts to  
12 improve and update the Ririe Reservoir winter flood control rule curves by  
13 leveraging federal infrastructure for increased water supplies; and

14          WHEREAS, notwithstanding the compelling reasons for a change in the  
15 flood control curves to retain storage in Ririe Reservoir, those involved in  
16 the federal government agencies are reluctant to allow reasonable modifi-  
17 cations based, in part, on using statistically low probabilities of a flood  
18 occurring in Willow Creek, which has never been seen in the history of the  
19 basin or region; and

20          WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature and the State of Idaho have gone on  
21 record as fully supporting additional storage in the State of Idaho and rec-  
22 ognize that the Ririe Dam is clearly capable of retaining additional storage  
23 without the substantial costs associated with constructing new storage fa-  
24 cilities and without increasing the risks imposed on any other reservoir  
25 within Water District 01; and

26          WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature intends to provide a portion of the cur-  
27 rent economic surplus enjoyed by the State of Idaho to the Idaho Water Re-  
28 source Board for projects and studies similar to those of the Ririe Reservoir  
29 flood control rule curve modifications and recognizes that the costs associ-  
30 ated with those studies and projects are beyond the means available to Mitig-  
31 ation, Inc. to undertake to their conclusion.

32          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
33 sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
34 resentatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature does hereby re-  
35 solve to call upon the federal government through its applicable agencies  
36 and personnel to finish the flood risk study, which will result in changing  
37 the flood control rule curves of the Ririe Reservoir based on the hydrologic  
38 analysis completed in phase 1 of the study, to better match the current con-  
39 ditions in the Willow Creek basin and allow for a more dependable contracted  
40 storage supply in Water District 01, and to provide for full mitigation of  
41 the impacts resulting from the 1990 Fort Hall Indian Water Rights Agreement.

42          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature supports and encour-  
43 ages the Idaho Water Resource Board to consider a proposal to provide finan-  
44 cial resources to Mitigation, Inc. to finalize the studies and projects nec-  
45 essary to change the Ririe Reservoir flood control rule curves.

46          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Governor be encouraged to join  
47 with the Idaho Legislature in supporting the change in the winter flood  
48 control rule curves of the Ririe Reservoir project to more properly balance  
49 Ririe Reservoir water supply and irrigation supplies with adequate flood  
50 control.