

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 4

BY JUDICIARY, RULES AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CON-
3 GRESS ASSEMBLED, TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE
4 STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE OFFICE OF
5 MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

6 We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of
7 the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth
8 Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

9 WHEREAS, Butte County is a rural area with a population of approximately
10 2,500 people. In 2013, Butte County was included as an outlying county of the
11 Idaho Falls Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). This designation leaves
12 Butte County ineligible for a variety of grants and opportunities; and

13 WHEREAS, the circumstances surrounding Butte County are unique. It is
14 home to the Idaho National Laboratory (INL), an 890-square-mile Department
15 of Energy facility, employing approximately 4,000 workers. Under current
16 Office of Management and Budget standards, Butte County is an outlying
17 county of the MSA because at least 25% of its workforce resides in Bonneville
18 County, where Idaho Falls is located; and

19 WHEREAS, as the nation's premier nuclear energy research lab, the INL is
20 a secure facility. The lab transports, stores, and handles sensitive mate-
21 rials in this remote location; and

22 WHEREAS, due to the nature of the INL's work, Butte County businesses
23 and residents cannot access the property or provide goods or services to the
24 thousands of employees. Butte County receives minimal economic benefit from
25 the commuting workforce. The INL should not affect the rural designation of
26 the county; and

27 WHEREAS, unfairly designating Butte County as metropolitan is an unin-
28 tended consequence of the Office of Management and Budget's 2010 standards.
29 Idaho's congressional delegation introduced Senate Bill 372 and House of
30 Representatives Bill 1113, the Statistical Area Fairness Act, to ensure that
31 rural counties with large federal facilities are not negatively affected by
32 MSA designations.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
34 sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
35 the Senate concurring therein, that it must be ensured that rural counties
36 with large federal installations within their borders are not negatively af-
37 fected by core-based statistical area designations.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in delineating core-based statistical ar-
39 eas, the Office of Management and Budget should not include a county in which
40 a large federal installation is located in a core-based statistical area
41 on the basis of the percentage of the employment in that county that is ac-
42 counted for by workers who reside in the central county or counties of the

1 core-based statistical area, as determined by the Office of Management and
2 Budget.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
4 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
5 Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing the
7 State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, and to the Office of Man-
8 agement and Budget.