

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 9

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes that the Snake River and its tributaries are a multiuse system providing navigation, transportation, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, hydropower generation, and irrigation to the citizens, municipalities, and industries of the Pacific Northwest; and

WHEREAS, the Snake River system is a vital part of the state's economic well-being and the quality of life of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho asserts and confirms sovereign control over all water resources within the state; and

WHEREAS, the Hells Canyon Complex of dams is currently being considered for relicensing to Idaho Power by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and such relicensing will include the release of an updated environmental impact statement (EIS); and

WHEREAS, the EIS will provide direction on how the dams are to be operated; and

WHEREAS, the current direction allows Idaho Power during the summer to lower the flow of water released at Hells Canyon Dam to less than 6500 CFS then increase the flow to more than 22000 CFS within hours every day; and

WHEREAS, this fluctuation in water levels is harmful to the water temperatures, fisheries, navigation of the river, and local tourism enjoying the recreational benefits of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, there would be benefits to water temperatures, fisheries, navigation of the river, and local tourism by having a minimum flow of 8500 CFS during the summer; and

WHEREAS, this change in operations at Hells Canyon Dam would increase the amount of power generated at Hells Canyon Dam; and

WHEREAS, the overall benefits to other users of the Snake River would increase; and

WHEREAS, 50,000 people a year recreate in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, driving an estimated \$230,000,000 recreation industry in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the effects of the water flows released at Hells Canyon Dam are felt from the dam all the way to Lewiston; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho recreating public should share in the wealth of the use of the Snake River.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
2 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
3 and the Senate concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature recommends to
4 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that the flows of the Snake River at
5 and below Hells Canyon Dam be maintained at a minimum of 8500 CFS from May 15
6 to October 1 for the benefit of all Idaho residents. Additionally, the Idaho
7 Legislature recognizes and supports the relicensing process of the Hells
8 Canyon Complex for the benefits of electricity for the citizens of Idaho.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representa-
10 tives be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this
11 Memorial to the President of the United States, the President of the Sen-
12 ate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the con-
13 gressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the
14 United States, and to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.