

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING CONSOLIDATION OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION INTO THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES.

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

WHEREAS, responsible government calls for the continual evaluation of current policies and practices to ensure effective and efficient departments and agencies within any administration; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Governor Brad Little signed Executive Order 2026-01, the Idaho Act, which directed executive departments, offices, and agencies to review all current operations in an effort to increase effectiveness and efficiency within Idaho state government and recommended combining the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR); and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has enacted the Idaho Code Cleanup Act, Chapter 37, Title 67, Idaho Code, calling for state code to be streamlined, up-to-date, and essential; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature convened the Idaho DOGE task force on July 25, 2025, as a combined legislative body that was created, in part, to evaluate and implement strategies, merge redundant agencies, and optimize services; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 2025, the DOGE task force unanimously approved a motion to recommend the integration of SWCC with IDWR and published material supporting further evaluation and subsequent action; and

WHEREAS, there is significant alignment of the missions of both SWCC and IDWR; and

WHEREAS, the proposed statutory realignment of the administrative oversight of SWCC warrants careful evaluation to ensure it strengthens the voluntary, locally led, and non-regulatory foundation of conservation districts in Idaho, and any realignment must have administrative and organizational structures that reinforce, rather than diminish, the unique role of conservation districts in leading locally led and non-regulatory conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature supports the consolidation of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Governor of Idaho, the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board, and members of the Legislature to collaborate to ensure that any proposed consolidation of the two entities retains the voluntary, non-regulatory mission and partner-

1 ship-centered focus of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and its  
2 districts.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature urges the Governor of Idaho,  
4 the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts Board, the Soil and Wa-  
5 ter Conservation Commission and district members, the Director of the Idaho  
6 Department of Water Resources, members of the Legislature, and other stake-  
7 holders to ensure that any consolidation of the two entities is executed to  
8 ensure that there is no interference with the core mission of the Soil and Wa-  
9 ter Conservation Commission and districts in supporting locally led and vol-  
10 untary conservation in Idaho.