

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 112

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
BOUNDARY COUNTY AND ITS RESIDENTS ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.

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

WHEREAS, Boundary County is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary during 2015; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, during the Thirteenth Idaho Legislature, the Legislature passed House Bill No. 1, creating Boundary County. The bill was signed by Governor Moses Alexander on January 25, 1915. The bill declared the village of Bonners Ferry to be the county seat and ordered the county commissioners to meet in the village of Bonners Ferry on the first Monday of July 1915. Governor Alexander appointed H. L. Shively, James Deyoe, and Donald C. McColl as the first Board of Boundary County Commissioners who first met in Boundary County on July 5, 1915; and

WHEREAS, Boundary County was so named because it borders Canada on the north, Washington on the west and Montana on the east. It is the only county in Idaho with an international border. The county consists of 1,278 square miles, with 9.3 square miles of water; and

WHEREAS, the Kootenai Valley is the ancestral home of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. They were not represented when other tribes ceded their land to the United States in the Treaty of July 16, 1855, in exchange for reservations, and so therefore were left landless. On September 20, 1974, following years of loss of their aboriginal lands, the 67 remaining Kootenais declared war on the United States of America. The peaceful war ended with the tribe being deeded 12.5 acres of land and the tribe remains an integral partner in Boundary County today; and

WHEREAS, the Boundary County Courthouse was under construction from 1935 to 1937 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 27, 1987. The front of the courthouse bears carvings depicting county resources of farming, mining and logging; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 1989, the Boundary County seal was adopted. In the center of the seal is the head of a deer surrounded by pine trees, with the Moyie Dam depicted below, along with drawings setting forth the county resources of farming, mining and logging, and depictions of hops are presented to the left and right; and

WHEREAS, mining was once a major resource in Boundary County. On December 22, 1864, the second session of the Idaho Territorial Legislature convened at Lewiston and granted Edwin L. Bonner and his party the right to build and operate a ferry across the Kootenai River. Bonners Ferry became a major shipping and supply point for Canadian mines; and

WHEREAS, the timber industry was once a major employer of the area with over 10 sawmills. Logging and farming are still major resources in Boundary County; and

1 WHEREAS, the Northern Pacific Railroad and the Great Northern Railroad
2 lines were completed in Boundary County in 1882 and 1892, respectively; and

3 WHEREAS, the first fire department in Boundary County was established
4 in 1904, electricity came to Boundary County in 1905, and Boundary County's
5 first hospital was opened in 1907; and

6 WHEREAS, the Moyie River and the Kootenai River run through Boundary
7 County, and there are more than 60 lakes in the county. Major floods on the
8 Kootenai River plagued the valley until the Libby Dam was completed in July
9 1973. Prior to the dam, drainage districts were constructed to retain the
10 high water in an attempt to prevent flooding of farmland. The highest water
11 stage at Bonners Ferry was recorded in 1961 at 37.28 feet; and

12 WHEREAS, Boundary County is also home to portions of the Idaho Panhandle
13 National Forests, the Kaniksu National Forest, the Selkirk, Cabinet and Pur-
14 cell mountain ranges, the Wild Horse Trail, the Kootenai River White Stur-
15 geon, and the Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
17 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-
18 resentatives concurring therein, that we hereby recognize and congratulate
19 Boundary County and its residents on its Centennial Anniversary.