

# Senate Joint Memorial 2

Sponsored by Senator LINTHICUM (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requests discussion between Oregon and Idaho governments regarding the relocation of Oregon and Idaho border.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1 To the Governor of Idaho, and to the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Idaho Legis-  
2 lature, in legislative session assembled:

3 We, your memorialists, the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-  
4 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

5 Whereas voters of 11 counties of eastern Oregon have approved ballot measures regarding  
6 making eastern Oregon a part of Idaho, and Wallowa County will vote on this in May 2023, and  
7 these counties are four-fifths of the 15 counties of eastern Oregon that might vote on this issue; and

8 Whereas Article XVI of the Oregon Constitution provides for the relocation of state boundaries;  
9 and

10 Whereas the Washington/Oregon border was relocated slightly in 1958; and

11 Whereas state borders have been relocated many times in the history of the United States, most  
12 recently in 1999, by interstate compacts pursuant to Article I, section 10, of the United States  
13 Constitution; and

14 Whereas state border relocations have moved entire counties into the jurisdiction of another  
15 state, as in the case of Berkeley County and Jefferson County, which became a part of West Virginia  
16 in 1863-several months after West Virginia was admitted to the Union without those counties; and

17 Whereas an interstate compact could include provisions for financial transfers, provisions to  
18 smooth the transitions caused by moving a state boundary and provisions for a plebiscite to give  
19 eastern Oregon as a whole, excluding the City of Bend, an opportunity to approve or reject an  
20 interstate compact to move the Oregon/Idaho border; and

21 Whereas this Legislative Assembly values the principle of self-determination in general and  
22 therefore does not wish to retain by force communities that wish to separate themselves from  
23 Oregon; and

24 Whereas the voting patterns of eastern Oregon have for many decades resembled the voting  
25 patterns of Idaho but not of Oregon, indicating a desire for a different style of governance; and

26 Whereas eastern Oregonians have begun to see Oregon government as a threat to the  
27 livelihoods, liberties and values of their communities, as the preferences of the voters of north-  
28 western Oregon appear at odds with the livelihoods and values of eastern Oregon communities; and

29 Whereas this Legislative Assembly considers the geographic extent of the state's jurisdiction to  
30 be a secondary consideration, as the health of Oregon's state budget is primarily determined by  
31

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 average income per capita, not the extent of the state’s territory; and

2 Whereas eastern Oregon, which has an average per capita personal income similar to Idaho’s,  
3 but much lower than Oregon’s, is better suited to contribute to Idaho’s state budget than to  
4 Oregon’s state budget, in which eastern Oregon receives more than it contributes; and

5 Whereas a January 2022 SurveyUSA poll showed that only three percent of the voters of  
6 northwestern Oregon would be willing to pay what it costs to have rural regions of Oregon treated  
7 equitably in the Oregon state budget; and

8 Whereas the eastern Oregon map proposed by Citizens for Greater Idaho would put only nine  
9 percent of the population of Oregon under Idaho’s jurisdiction; and

10 Whereas if eastern Oregon became a part of Idaho, the Oregon Legislative Assembly could focus  
11 entirely on the needs of western Oregon and would become more politically homogeneous; and

12 Whereas the aforementioned SurveyUSA poll indicated that many conservative northwestern  
13 Oregon voters would welcome the opportunity to move to a state with a more conservative political  
14 orientation if it were within driving distance of their current community; now, therefore,

15 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

16 That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly stand ready to begin dis-  
17 cussions regarding the potential to relocate the Oregon/Idaho border, and we invite the Idaho Leg-  
18 islature, the Governor of Idaho and the Governor of Oregon to begin talks on this topic with this  
19 Legislative Assembly; and be it further

20 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President Pro Tempore of the Idaho  
21 Senate, to the Speaker of the Idaho House of Representatives, to the Governor of Idaho and to the  
22 Governor of Oregon.

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