

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THE BOUNDARY COUNTY LI-
3 BRARY DISTRICT AS THE BEST SMALL LIBRARY IN AMERICA IN 2017.

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

5 WHEREAS, in September 2017 the trade publication Library Journal, the
6 most circulated professional library publication in North America, awarded
7 the Boundary County Library District its annual Best Small Library in Amer-
8 ica designation; and

9 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District is one of more than 5,000
10 small and rural libraries across America; and

11 WHEREAS, the annual award is given to the small library that best demon-
12 strates innovation in developing services and programs, successfully edu-
13 cating patrons in new technology, developing community support, engaging in
14 partnerships with local schools and businesses, and filling a central role
15 as a community center; and

16 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has created a dynamic
17 model for making its community the heart of the library that all of America's
18 small libraries can emulate; and

19 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District staff have created a cul-
20 ture of opportunity for the residents of Bonners Ferry and Boundary County;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has been recognized for
23 its services to residents that empower invention, engineering education
24 and entrepreneurship, especially through their Massachusetts Institute of
25 Technology Fab Lab maker space, which offers library patrons local access to
26 cutting-edge technology; and

27 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has encouraged youth en-
28 trepreneurship and hosts an annual Youth Business Fair that brings measur-
29 able economic development to Bonners Ferry; and

30 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District has been an important
31 partner to a variety of community agencies, educational institutions, lo-
32 cal nonprofits and tribal organizations in addressing its rural community
33 needs, including early childhood learning, financial literacy programs,
34 continuing education and job skills retraining; and

35 WHEREAS, the Boundary County Library District is a part of Idaho's dy-
36 namic public library system comprised of 146 buildings that were visited 8.6
37 million times in 2016. The Idaho public library system experienced a 30%
38 growth in program attendance and facilitated at least a 26% increase in in-
39 ternet use by their communities since 2012; and

40 WHEREAS, Idaho's public libraries are part of the Idaho Library Associ-
41 ation, organized to promote state-of-the-art learning and networking oppor-
42 tunities for professional librarians, board trustees, staff and volunteers;
43 and

1 WHEREAS, the Idaho State Librarian has recognized the Boundary County
2 Library District as a model "for the amazing things that can happen when a
3 library director, staff and board truly listen to the needs and aspirations
4 of their community and not only meet those needs but exceed them."
5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
6 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
7 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the
8 Boundary County Library District as one of Idaho's gems, and congratulates
9 it for being named the Best Small Library in America in 2017.