

OWYHEE COUNTY
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE OWYHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS DECLARING OWYHEE COUNTY IDAHO TO BE A SANCTUARY
FOR THE AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION COMMONLY
KNOWN AS “THE BILL OF RIGHTS” AND THE DECLARATION OF RIGHTS
FOUND IN ARTICLE 1 OF THE IDAHO CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, The Board of County Commissioners (the Board) knows well the history of the founding of the United States, the compelling language of the Declaration of Independence, and the care taken in drafting and ratifying our Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The Board also knows well the language of the Constitution of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the preamble to the Declaration of Independence states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”; and

WHEREAS, declarations found in the preamble to the Constitution of the State of Idaho and in its first Article affirm the Rights of Idaho Citizens in much the same language as the US Constitution’s Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the preamble to the Declaration of Independence also confirms the status of government in regard to the rights of the people as, “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Constitution also makes clear that political power is inherent in the people; and

WHEREAS, The Founders of our Country clarified the inherent rights of the people as not coming from government but enumerated them in the first ten Amendments to the Constitution, known collectively as The Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Constitution approved in 1890 documented those pre-existing rights in Article 1; and

WHEREAS, The Board knows also the history of the United States and of Owyhee County, including the settlement and development history; and

WHEREAS, The Board knows that it was no easy task to bring settlement and development to the harsh lands and environments of Owyhee County and that to succeed in that venture required the special nature of people seeking to live their lives freely with the minimal governmental control specified within the Declaration and the Constitutions of the United States and of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Governmental overreach into the lives and rights of the people has been increasing for decades and that rate of intrusion has significantly increased in recent times; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Owyhee County are still endowed by their creator with certain unalienable Rights as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution, the United States Constitution Bill of Rights, and the Idaho Constitution Declaration of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Board acknowledges those rights of the citizens and desires to reaffirm such support; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE OWYHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS THAT OWYHEE COUNTY IS A SANCTUARY FOR THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS AS ENUMERATED WITHIN THE PREAMBLE TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, THE TEN AMENDMENTS TO THE US CONSTITUTION KNOWN AS THE BILL OF RIGHTS, AND THE IDAHO CONSTITUTION'S DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

Adopted the 19th day of January 2021.



Joe Merrick, Chairman



Jerry L. Hoagland, Commissioner



Kelly Aberasturi, Commissioner

Attest: 

Audra Yoshikane, Deputy Clerk