

Submitter: Travis Johnson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Transportation
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3122
February 10, 2025

To: Joint Committee on Transportation

Re: Owyhee Lake Road Access Fee

I am writing in support of HB 3122 to work towards implementing an access fee for Owyhee Lake Road. Owyhee Lake Road is a narrow two-lane road that has seen a significant increase in traffic over the past few years. As the population of Ada, Canyon, Payette, and Owyhee Counties in Idaho has increased, so too has the traffic on Lake Owyhee.

This narrow road is not built for, or capable of safely handling the current traffic load. It is only a matter of time we see our first major tragedy related to traffic on this road. Bigger boats, and bigger RV's continue to access the reservoir, making it difficult to safely pass in many areas. It is not uncommon to find people pulling doubles up the road. While legal in Idaho this is not legal in Oregon. This road is a major concern for the Malheur County Sheriff's Office.

It is time to look at ways to update this road, and I believe an access fee is one way to do that. It is my opinion that residents of Malheur County should also have the ability to receive a waiver of access fees.

Sincerely,

Travis Johnson
Malheur County Sheriff