

Statement of Representative Michael K. Simpson (ID-02)

HR 5665- The American Falls Reservoir District #2 Conveyance

Before the Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

September 28, 2006

First of all, let me thank Chairman Pearce for allowing a timely hearing on H.R. 5665, the American Falls Reservoir District #2 Conveyance; it is important to many of my constituents that this legislation move through the legislative process as quickly as possible – and it is my hope that after today's hearing this legislation can still make it's way through the Committee and eventually be passed out of the house before the end of the 109 th Congress.

Let me begin by saying that t he Bureau of Reclamation and the American Falls Reservoir District #2 have worked collaboratively and efficiently to successfully address all of the elements involved in this exchange. H.R. 5665 is an important and timely bill that would authorize the conveyance of two small but critical tracts of federally-owned land from the Bureau of Reclamation to the National Park Service (NPS) for inclusion in the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

H.R. 5665 is the result of years of work by the Bureau of Reclamation and the District, and at the same time is a benefit to all interested parties. The transfer of the facility and lands will allow the American Falls Reservoir District to simplify their administrative actions associated with the operations and maintenance of the facilities. H.R. 5665 is beneficial to the National Park Service because it will enable them to provide enhanced visitor services for tourists and local residents. The bill will convey lands and buildings to the NPS necessary to establish a primary visitor contact area for the Minidoka Internment National Monument and it will provide land for an Issei memorial to honor the first generation of Japanese Americans who were relocated to the former Minidoka Relocation Center.

I know my testimony was brief, but this is a good bill, a good title transfer, and this legislation reflects a cooperative and cost effective process that will provide a benefit to the American Falls District, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.