

Press Release

***Move Oregon's Border* submits signatures to Wallowa County Clerk to get on ballot**

On July 31, an organization dedicated to moving the Oregon/Idaho border submitted 347 signatures to the county clerk of the 242 required to get onto the Wallowa County ballot. The originator of the idea of a “greater Idaho,” Grant Darrow, was the man who submitted the signatures. Along with Republican Party of Wallowa County Chairwoman Annette Lathrop, Darrow had mobilized numerous volunteers and essential businesses to collect signatures despite the Governor’s lockdown.

Currently, the deadline for the submittal of signatures for county ballot initiatives is August 5. The organization called *Move Oregon's Border for a greater Idaho* has initiated a federal lawsuit to get a delay of the date and a reduction in the signature requirement in other counties. Although their first motion for a preliminary injunction was denied on July 20, they say they fixed the deficiencies of the first motion in their second motion. They await a response to the second motion, which was filed July 22.

Move Oregon's Border said that they will have enough signatures to get on the November 2020 ballot in Jefferson County also. In other counties, the number of signatures that have already been turned into the group’s leadership is 92% of the requirement in Union County, and 75% of the requirement in Douglas County, but other counties are farther behind. The president of the group, Mike McCarter, said “In this final week, a lot of people are downloading petitions from www.greateridaho.org and delivering their petitions to us, so there is hope. Every signature counts because if the federal judge reduces the requirement enough, one signature could make the difference in any county. We hope that, because of the lockdown, the federal judge will reduce the requirement and delay the deadline, or county commissioners will choose to put a non-binding advisory question onto their county’s ballot about this. This year, eighteen county boards in Illinois have put a question about splitting their state on the ballot in their counties. If we don’t get this relief, then we’ll keep collecting signatures and put it on ballot in May 2021 in our counties. And we don’t need to get on the ballot in every county because ultimately it will be up to state legislators of both states to decide on the new location for the state border.”

McCarter said, “We hope that Willamette Valley Oregonians will pressure their legislators to let our counties go because we estimate that being rid of our counties would help their state budget by \$324 per Oregonian wage earner per year. Yet we won’t be a burden on Idaho because our counties have the same

average income as Idaho does. Once we are free of Oregon regulations and taxation, our economies will improve dramatically.”

“It’s not our fault that our counties are a burden on Oregon. If you look at the comment section of an article about us you’ll see Willamette Valley people laughing at us for having lower average incomes than their counties do. That’s because rural Oregon is in an abusive relationship with Willamette Valley. Their politicians imposed regulations and taxes that damage rural industries and drive up unemployment, underemployment, and the cost of living. Well, that means we pay less state income tax than their counties do. Plus, they impose their perverted sense of morality on us. It’s time to end this abusive relationship. Idaho has fewer pages of state regulations than any other state. Idaho doesn’t use welfare to create a lifestyle of unemployment. Combining all taxes together, Idaho has lower tax rates than Oregon does. Our communities can get more suitable governance from Idaho.”

Grant Darrow said “Thank you to Garret, Ben, Joann, Tammy and Bill who were out there every day!”

Mike McCarter,

Leader, *Move Oregon’s Border For a Greater Idaho* movement

President, *Move Oregon’s Border* 501(c)(4), P.O. Box 1294, La Pine, Oregon, 97739

Plaintiff, *McCarter v. Brown*, et. al. 6:20-cv-01048

List of locations where petitions may be picked up, and a list of drop-off locations:

www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterIdaho/permalink/568593160471945

Press: for hi-res images of signatures being delivered in Wallowa County, collected in Josephine County, the rally in Douglas County, or the maps, email CascadeCarry@Outlook.com

For earlier press releases, visit www.GreaterIdaho.org

Please read our FAQ here: www.greateridaho.org/the_downloads/2020/main/FAQ.pdf

Read our main document here:

www.greateridaho.org/the_downloads/2019/main/Greater_Idaho_Proposal.pdf

The main Facebook group www.facebook.com/groups/GreaterIdaho

For info on asking your county commissioner to put greater Idaho on the ballot, visit:

www.facebook.com/GreaterIdaho/photos/a.112830530234555/157009962483278