

**RESOLUTION 19-252  
CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE,  
SPOKANE COUNTY WASHINGTON, DECLARING SUPPORT FOR REVISIONS TO  
RCW 82.14.370 TO EXPAND THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE SALES AND USE TAX  
TOOL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO INCLUDE "BORDER COUNTIES"  
THAT ARE CONTIGUOUS WITH A STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY.**

WHEREAS, of 39 counties in the state of Washington, only six do not have at least one port district capable of funding economic development activities through a dedicated property tax revenue stream; and

WHEREAS, of the six counties that do not have a port district, five are designated by the state as rural, and are therefore eligible to receive 0.09% of the state's share of the sales and use tax as a funding mechanism for economic development through the provisions of RCW 82.14.370; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County is the only county in the state that does not receive either the 0.09% revenue from sales tax or property tax revenue from a port district to support economic development activities, including construction of public facilities and infrastructure, and personnel in support of economic development activities; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County is at a disadvantage by not having a sustainable, dedicated funding mechanism directed at capital projects in support of economic development, and supporting business recruitment/expansion/ retention; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County is further disadvantaged by its proximity to Idaho, which maintains a business climate wherein a company can save nearly \$4 per hour per employee with minimum wage, does not have to pay B & O taxes, pays lower property taxes and low fuel prices, and operates with fewer employer mandates; and

WHEREAS, Washington Counties bordering Oregon, a state with no sales tax and the loss of sales tax revenue from Washington residents making purchases in Oregon; and

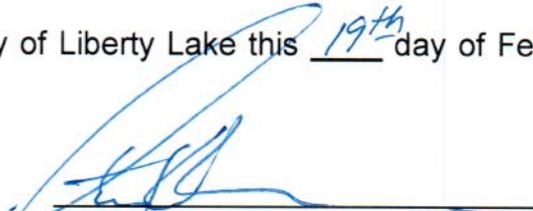
WHEREAS, Senator Mark Mullet, Chair of the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions, Economic Development, and Trade is sponsoring amendments to RCW 82.14.370, to include expanding the eligibility of the sales and use tax tool for economic development to "border counties" that are contiguous to another state or foreign country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake, Spokane County, Washington as follows:

**Section 1:** Declaration of Support for Proposed Amendments to RCW 82.14.370. The City of Liberty Lake City Council does hereby support amendments to RCW 82.14.370 to expand the eligibility of the 0.09% sales and use tax tool for economic development defined therein to include "border counties", defined as "counties that are contiguous with a state or foreign country".

**Section 2:** Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Liberty Lake this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019.



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Mayor Steve Peterson

**ATTEST:**



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Ann Swenson, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



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Sean P. Boutz, City Attorney