



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 27, 2009

Dear _____ ,

We all have gotten more than our fair share of news media coverage the past few weeks – most of it negative, focused on our challenges and a few issues on which we have not yet reached agreement.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for those many issues on which we have worked together so well and effectively, and on which we have made real progress and agreed on real solutions for the people we serve. There is far too little coverage of the success stories of this legislative session, and of the honorable and noteworthy job you are doing under extraordinarily difficult economic conditions.

Not the least of those achievements, in my view, is your crafting of a budget that recognizes the proper role of government in people's lives, and endeavors to meet our constitutional and statutory responsibilities within the means of Idaho taxpayers.

At the same time, you have stayed true to our commitment to provide at least some degree of relief to the neediest among us by continuing the phased increases of our grocery tax credit. You protected those Idahoans most directly affected in this recession by extending and enhancing unemployment benefits. And you encouraged and facilitated our economic recovery and future prosperity by extending tax credits and rebates for small business expansion beyond their 2010 sunsets.

You also have laid the foundation for real advances in education policy and technology by approving a sweeping reorganization of education governance from kindergarten through college, and by funding the Idaho Education Network initiative to bring the best and most cost-effective learning experience to every student. And our resources future is more secure as well with your approval of the landmark Swan Falls water rights agreement with Idaho Power Co., and with your funding of the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan process.

In addition, you showed great fiscal responsibility by approving legislation to dramatically reduce the potentially devastating impacts of a growing unfunded liability for medical benefits, and by reforming the system for indemnifying local governments against catastrophic indigent medical costs.

And of course – despite the public perception and the intensity of our continuing discussions – our transportation priorities also progressed during this session. GARVEE funding was approved to continue critical work, and steps were taken to advance real accountability and efficiency in Idaho Transportation Department processes and operations.

For all this and for your civic virtue, your friendship and our shared commitment to limited government and unlimited opportunity, you have my deep and sincere thanks. It is an honor to work with you, and I look forward to continuing our development of a productive and fulfilling relationship this year, and for years to come.

As Always – Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "C.L." and the last name "Otter" being more distinct than the middle name "Butch".

C.L. “Butch” Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/ma