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In response to Gov. Otter's State of the State address today, Idaho gubernatorial candidate Jana Kemp had the following observations and remarks:

### **On the Governor's State of the State Address 2010:**

**\* Jana's Favorite Speech Quote: "Idahoans are as Independent and freedom loving as ever." – Governor Otter in his 2010 State of the State opening comments.**

#### **\* 2010 list of Musts listed in his speech:**

**o 1. Must not raise taxes** – I agree and would go a step further to say we need to look for areas of tax reform and reduction: property tax, income tax, et al.

**o 2. Must continue to maintain some level of reserves** – true, we all need savings. How is he planning to do this and what funds will actually be protected?

**o 3. Must protect education and see it as a first priority after the recovery** – As a post-speech NPR reporter said, there were several points of conflict in his speech. THIS is one of them as education is being asked to make cuts in the remaining 2010 budget and further cuts in the 2011 budget. Praising education and then punishing it is definitely a conflict.

**o 4. Must protect the health and safety of citizens and the vulnerable** – yet by the end of the speech, the following commissions were listed on the to-be-closed roster: Human Rights Commission, Hispanic Commission, and the State Independent Living Council. These closures will not fulfill this 'must of protecting citizens.'

**o 5. Avoid Duplications in Government** – on the face of it this makes sense, but the manner in which reorganization is being tackled leaves us little room for a strong recovery of the activities and infrastructure (parks, fish and game, law enforcement and education) that we will expect when the situation improves. Where is the strategy?

**\* Midway through the speech: "What I'm proposing are sweeping changes that are meant to be permanent."** - Which changes exactly did this statement apply to?

**\* Eliminate 400 Jobs Statewide – 375 of which are empty now** – This is frustrating, as according to the Department of Financial Management's reports for the first three years of this Governor's term, he allowed the state payroll to grow by more than 500 FTPs. In other words, if he hadn't grown the total number of people on the state's payroll, perhaps people wouldn't have to be laid off now and important positions could be refilled. Again – where's the strategy?

#### **\* Proposals for spending money**

**o Money for CWI as it rapidly grows** – Good idea, where is the money coming from?

**o Investing in the Idaho Falls Center for Energy Studies** – Again, a good idea, where is the money coming from?

**o Creating scholarships for college** – Representative Trail and others worked on this when the state HAD the money to expand our scholarships and it didn't happen then. So, again, where is the money going to come from?

**\* Protect Idaho's Water** - \$1M needed for the aquifer management plan – Yes, planning is good as long as the whole state benefits from this plan! Yet again, where is the money being taken away to

provide for this line item?

\* **Open Door to Governor's Office – or within 24 hours** – People all over the state have contacted me to say that this has not been their experience. Share what your experience has been about access – send me an email [jana@janakemp.com](mailto:jana@janakemp.com) Perhaps a new leaf is being turned – hope so.

\* **Recognition of and Thanks to Idaho businesses** – nice touch. Remember that our businesses and agriculture are the backbone of Idaho's economy!

\* **Asking for civility and collaboration** – This is the first of four sessions he has approached from the standpoint of respect and asking to work together.

\* **NOT in the speech but on his agenda:**

o **Parks and Recreation Department Dismantling** – was alarmingly not in the speech and yet media folks had the information in their hands to comment upon details after the speech. From what I've heard about the plan, it demonstrates a lack of strategic planning and focuses merely on cost-cutting.

o **Agency re-organizations**- What are they and will they a. save money, b. be beneficial for the state now and into the future? What are the plans and priorities post-recovery?

o **State employees having to take half-day-Friday's** to save the state money. When does this take effect? How will it affect services and public safety?