



SENATE MAJORITY PRESS RELEASE

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SENATE MAJORITY CALLS DEMOCRAT PLANS CONTRADICTORY AND A CALL FOR SIGNIFICANT TAX INCREASES

January 12th, 2009—Boise. Senate Majority leadership today responded to comments and statements of the Senate and House Minority leadership.

“The statements and remarks of the opposition were contradictory, reckless and amounted to little more than nay saying today,” stated Majority Caucus Chairman Russell M. Fulcher (District 21, Meridian).

“On the one hand they issue three bullet points for a vision that are identical to what every Republican has said for years regarding making state government more efficient, constructing a future based on individual responsibility and hard work where opportunity and prosperity are the goal.

Fulcher continues, “Yet on the other hand their only concrete idea was to suggest the Legislature set a budget which uses as its premise one possible economic projection with \$82 million in additional revenue that could be as wrong as the projections we’ve had the last two years. Where are the efficiency, responsibility and vision for prosperity in that approach?”

States Bob Geddes, President Pro Tem, (District 31, Soda Springs): “State revenues are down 19% over the past two fiscal years. It is purely the fiscal discipline of previous legislative sessions and the strong leadership of Governor Otter that has prevented Idaho from suffering the horrendous cuts to education budgets that have befallen nearly every other state in the union.

“It is also worth bearing in mind Democrats roundly condemned the supplementing of rainy day funds only a few years ago. Only last year they proposed completely depleting ALL of the rainy day accounts because they felt the downturn would be so short. These rainy day accounts alone have buffered education from the truly severe cuts we’ve seen in our neighboring states.

“It appears to me that Democrats are proposing a significant tax increase, which Idahoans do not want, especially in difficult times,” added Bart Davis, Majority Leader (District 33, Idaho Falls).

“The people of Idaho aren’t so easily fooled,” Fulcher concluded.

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