



June 15, 2010

Dear _____

I am writing to thank IACI for taking down the false allegations made about me on the website paid for by the Idaho Prosperity Fund.

In its long history in Idaho politics, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry has worked hard to get its facts right. IACI has also long supported a strong education system. So it seemed out of character for IACI to make factually incorrect allegations against me for the stand I have taken against unnecessary cuts to education. There were several good choices available for protecting our kids' education without raising taxes and those are the choices that I would have made.

It also seemed strange that IACI would accuse me of supporting tax increases since I helped lead the successful effort to defeat Butch Otter's effort to hike gas taxes and registration fees on Idaho families during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

But just defeating Butch Otter's unwise effort to raise taxes and fees isn't enough to get Idaho's economy going the way it should be. Idaho's income tax rates are too high and our education system isn't thorough enough. By closing tax exemptions that don't make sense and by focusing on the most cost effective education investments possible, we can both reduce tax rates and improve education.

Idaho can be far more economically competitive if we have a governor who understands that cost-effective investments in education should be the highest budget priority, and who has a concrete plan for cutting tax rates.

I look forward to working with the business community to improve Idaho's economy and education system. As someone who has worked as a consultant to help several IACI member companies succeed, I understand how critical a vibrant business sector is to a vibrant Idaho.

I would be pleased to meet with the IACI board so that we can better understand each other's approach to advancing our shared interests in a thorough education system and a vibrant economy.

Sincerely,

Keith Allred