



COEUR D'ALENE
A CITY OF EXCELLENCE

MAYOR

Sandi Bloem

COUNCIL MEMBERS

John Bruning

Ron Edinger

Deanna Goodlander

Al Hassell

Mike Kennedy

Woody McEvers

March 1, 2011

Dear Members of the Idaho House of Representatives,

Please oppose HB 96.

Urban renewal provides long-term benefits to local taxing districts in the form of increased value which can help lower property tax rates when revenue allocation ends. Allowing taxing districts to opt out of revenue allocation, as proposed by **HB 96**, would allow these jurisdictions to reap the benefit of a larger tax base without sharing in the short-term sacrifice required.

Please oppose HB 96 and allow urban renewal agencies to continue the great work they have started in Idaho where everyone is on a level playing field.

Best regards,

Sandi Bloem

Mayor





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Dear Members of the Idaho House of Representatives,

Please oppose HB 97.

The goal of every urban renewal agency (URA) should be to accomplish its mission and close out as expeditiously as possible. To require URAs to distribute revenue to taxing districts, as proposed by HB 97, would lengthen the lifespan of revenue allocation areas and require more sacrifice from taxing districts.

By placing unnecessary requirements on this economic development tool, Idaho will be at a competitive disadvantage with our neighboring states in recruiting new businesses and industries.

Please oppose HB 97. Urban renewal agencies are doing great work in Idaho to put Idahoans to work.

Best regards,


Sandi Bloem
Mayor





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Dear Members of the Idaho House of Representatives,

Please oppose HB 99.

This bill would have a devastating impact on urban renewal, the state's one and only strategic tool for economic development. Its significance is magnified as Idahoans face the highest rates of unemployment in the last 20 years.

The concept of a county-wide vote on URA bonds, as proposed by HB 99, will place unnecessary constraints on the use of this vital, economic development tool. It is unlikely that any business would be willing to wait for an election, which can only be held in May or November, when considering locating in a city. Furthermore, the fate of smaller communities may be placed in the hands of people residing in other cities or in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Please oppose HB 99 and continue to allow urban renewal agencies to do their work, unencumbered by unnecessary restrictions.

Best regards,

Sandi Bloem
Mayor





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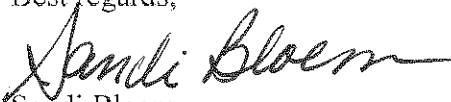
Dear Members of the Idaho House of Representatives,

Please oppose HB 114.

Requiring the election of urban renewal commissioners, as proposed by HB 114, is very problematic. Many cities are unable to find enough candidates to run for mayor and council, much less an urban renewal board. Currently, cities are able to appoint individuals with the most useful knowledge and expertise to urban renewal boards. Politicizing economic development issues would not seem to be in the community's best interests.

Please oppose HB 114 and continue to allow mayors and council members to make the decisions for which they were elected.

Best regards,


Sandi Bloem
Mayor

