



MILK PRODUCERS OF IDAHO
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boise: In action taken during their January meeting the Board of Directors of the Milk Producers of Idaho (MPI) voiced their support for Governor Otter’s plan to establish a state-based insurance exchange under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

“We basically have the choice of our health care decisions being determined under a federal insurance exchange or a state-based one,” said Board Chair Tena Petter of Buhl. “We feel that the state of Idaho can run any program more efficiently than the federal government.”

Executive Director of MPI, Brent Olmstead, said that the Board heard from both sides of the issue during their deliberations and that it quickly became obvious that a state-based exchange provided more protection at a lower cost for the employees of dairies around the state.

“The Board strongly felt that it is important to have decisions regarding health insurance coverage in Idaho to be determined by Idahoans and not federal bureaucrats,” said Olmstead, who went on to point out that “whether we like it or not, the Supreme Court has upheld the PPACA. It is the law and simply ignoring it is not a viable option.

The MPI Board encourages everyone in Idaho to look at the facts on the issue and compare the costs and protections offered by a state-based exchange over what the federal government could provide.

“I welcome the well-reasoned support and assistance of the Milk Producers of Idaho in advancing our best available chance to positively influence how Idaho citizens will be effected by this federal mandate,” Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said. “I appreciate them putting Idaho first, and focusing on the real-world challenges and opportunities we face as a state.”

Milk Producers of Idaho is a state trade association comprised of dairy operations, milk processors and other businesses interested in promoting a strong dairy industry in Idaho.