



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

January 2, 2014

Robin Sandy  
Chairman  
Idaho Board of Correction

Dear Robin,

First let me thank you for your insights and leadership over these past several months as my staff and I have worked with you to assess the challenges and opportunities in management and oversight of the Idaho Correctional Center (ICC). Your perspectives and priorities have been critical to developing the policy guidance about which I am writing to you today.

After thoroughly reviewing all the facts and issues, as well as the heightened level of judicial oversight of operations there, it is apparent to me that our goal of consistently successful day-to-day operation is better served at this time by the State of Idaho taking a more direct management role at ICC.

Reviewing our own experience and those of prison facilities throughout the country makes it increasingly clear that State control of custodial functions within the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC) at this time – particularly involving the close-custody security level required for ICC inmates – is a better way to ensure best practices, public safety and the public confidence we all work to achieve.

Therefore, I would ask that the Idaho Board of Correction (Board) act as soon as practicable to suspend development of a Request for Proposals on a new contractor to take over ICC when the contract with Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) expires effective July 1, 2014. It is my strong recommendation that the Board turn its attention to developing a comprehensive plan under which IDOC would assume management of ICC upon expiration of the CCA contract.

I know that will require significant additional resources and manpower. After consulting with the germane legislative committee and JFAC leaders I have received assurances of their support for this major policy change. However, I believe there are noncustodial IDOC functions that could be better suited to privatized operations. I would therefore ask that the Board identify and thoroughly assess those opportunities and prepare a plan for implementing them within a reasonable and responsible time certain.

I look forward to discussing this guidance in greater detail with you and with Director Reinke.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho

CLO/mw