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BALUKOFF CALLS NEGATIVE CAMPAIGN TACTICS 'LAUGHABLE'

BOISE, Idaho—A.J. Balukoff responded today to a new website, LiberalAJ.com, that grossly misrepresents him and his positions on a variety of issues, saying, "This is laughable and comes as no surprise to us. Gov. Otter is determined to run away from his poor record on education and jobs in Idaho."

"He has decided to go negative. That's disappointing, because we feel the voters should hear directly from the candidates about their views and records. It's also not a surprise to see the state's richest business group backing Gov. Otter, who has been a recipient of their generous financial support in the past. This slander campaign is bankrolled by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, where Gov. Otter's campaign manager Jayson Ronk last worked as a lobbyist before coming to work to help get Gov. Otter re-elected. Gov. Otter's campaign leadership is staffed with high-powered lobbyists who know who butters their bread."

Balukoff pointed out several contradictions in the website, which criticizes Balukoff on issues on which IACI took a similar stance. IACI supported a constitutional amendment to reduce the two-thirds voter approval required for passage of school bond levies. IACI supports Medicaid expansion and the state healthcare exchange. IACI supports GOP Congressman Mike Simpson, who proposed the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness. Lastly, that website ties Balukoff to the national Democratic Party platform, not the Idaho Democratic Party, whose platform can be [found here](#).

"Gov. Otter is just using negative campaigning to dodge the stark truth about his record," Balukoff said. "Idaho has dropped to 50th in per-pupil school spending on his watch. When he took office, Idaho ranked ahead of nine states in per-capita personal income; now only one state is behind Idaho, and we're also 49th in the percentage of workers earning minimum wage."

"Actually, I'm encouraged by Gov. Otter's negative campaigning, because it tells us he's nervous. Everywhere I go in our state, I hear Idahoans say Butch Otter has had eight years to deliver on his promises and he hasn't."

We can't afford to wait another four years to see whether he'll finally do what he says he'll do."

"Butch Otter can choose to go negative; that's his decision," Balukoff said. "I'm not taking this seriously and voters shouldn't, either. I challenge the governor to wage a positive campaign and not use his corporate-lobbyist surrogates to misrepresent me and my record. I will continue to focus on my message that Idaho needs to invest more in our schools, for our kids and our economic future. That is what matters to the people of Idaho."

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