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BALUKOFF DEMANDS GOVERNOR RELEASE ALL CCA RECORDS IMMEDIATELY

BOISE, Idaho—Democratic gubernatorial candidate A.J. Balukoff today demanded that Gov. Otter immediately make public all records and communications related to the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), after a news story linked Gov. Otter's top staff to the "sweetheart deal" the state made with CCA, a major Otter campaign donor accused of defrauding the state.

"Gov. Otter has said several times that he had nothing to do with the sweetheart deal cut with his campaign donor, CCA, that let the company off the hook for only \$1 million when it's possible CCA defrauded the state for many millions," Balukoff said. "Now we find out that, in fact, Gov. Otter's top staff was directly communicating with CCA officials over the most minute details of that settlement agreement. Does the governor expect the public to believe his staff was not reporting to him about the biggest scandal in his administration? This news story shows that Gov. Otter's claim that he had no involvement in the CCA settlement was a bald-faced lie."

Emails show that Otter aide Mark Warbis, liaison between Otter's office and the Board of Corrections, Otter's chief of staff David Hensley and chief counsel Tom Perry, and Corrections Director Brent Reinke were directly involved in negotiating the \$1 million settlement with CCA. [source: http://www.idahostatesman.com/2014/10/16/3430976_emails-show-otters-staff-involved.html?sp=/99/1687/&rh=1]

An audit found that CCA over-billed the state for more than 26,000 hours never worked in just one year of the 10 years of CCA's \$29 million annual contract to manage the state prison south of Boise. CCA has given \$20,000 to Otter's campaign war chest. The FBI is now investigating the case.

"The voters of Idaho are seeing the true face of Butch Otter, and discovering that he has become just another politician who's beholden to his big campaign donors at the expense of the people he's supposed to defend as governor," Balukoff said. "We already knew that his administration misled the public, claiming for months there was an investigation taking place when there was never any investigation. The responsible next step for Gov. Otter to take is to release to the media and the public all records and communications related to the Corrections Corporation of America."

"Gov. Otter has bungled this debacle badly, and now there's very good reason to suspect criminal wrongdoing at some level in state government," Balukoff added. "It got so stinky the FBI had to step in. But voters should not have to wait until the results of the ongoing FBI investigation become public--that could take months."

"If Gov. Otter wants voters to believe that he deserves a third term in office, he has a responsibility to show voters just exactly what has been going on in this affair, and he should answer all questions the media and public have about it."

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