

Stop petty fighting and get to work for Idaho

Devin Rokyta/Moscow-Pullman Daily News

It's never been a secret that Idaho's two representatives in Congress don't necessarily care for each other.

One, Raúl Labrador, is a tea party favorite, and the other, Mike Simpson, is a moderate Republican, meaning in Labrador's eyes he's as good as a Democrat.

Their bickering became much more public last week.

A little more than a week ago, Labrador was one of a handful of congressmen who voted against legislation that will send millions of much-needed federal dollars to rural Idaho schools and counties. Labrador says he voted "nay" because the legislation, Secure Rural Schools, was attached to an unrelated Medicare reimbursement bill he has labeled as too expensive. Simpson voted for the bill - which passed the House with a 392-37 vote - and later said you would "have to look long and hard to find a reason to vote no."

Labrador said the comment was specifically directed toward him, and responded by quickly going on the offensive, launching a personal attack against his colleague.

"Mike Simpson has been part of the establishment in Washington, D.C., for 12 years," Labrador said. "He loves to go out drinking and smoking with the Speaker (John Boehner). He loves to have these relationships where it's all about making false promises to his constituents and then going back there to Washington, D.C., to compromise."

Accusing Simpson of being a liar is a pretty low blow, and Labrador clearly fails to realize compromise is a key element of effective government. His kind of reasoning - and his refusal to work across the aisle or even with more reasonable members of the Republican party, like Simpson - is exactly why so little has been accomplished in Congress since the GOP took control of the House in 2010.

Labrador and Simpson need to put an end to their pettiness and focus on working for Idaho.