



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
March 23, 2016

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have transmitted today to the Secretary of State the following House Bill, which was allowed to become law without my signature:

HB 463

as prescribed by the Constitution.

Self-determination and local control – like independence and self-reliance – are Idaho values. So I am philosophically torn by this legislation.

I understand that cities and counties are political subdivisions subject to oversight and regulation by the State. But I also know that the State of Idaho objects strenuously when the federal government oversteps its authority. So I expect local jurisdictions to feel similarly when legislators decide overwhelmingly that they must not allow local voters to decide for themselves whether to raise the minimum wage.

Resort communities where employees struggle to live in the higher-priced local economy and communities along Idaho's western border competing for employees with higher-paying employers in neighboring Oregon and Washington are just two examples of how this bill could stifle local solutions.

I personally oppose the minimum wage. However, I support the right and ability of local citizens – as well as employers and employees – to act in their own best interest on such vital economic issues. There is no rush by our citizens to bypass the State and raise the local minimum wages unilaterally. And since isolated efforts to do so have gained little traction, I consider this bill to be a solution in search of a problem.

Yet the Legislature made its voice heard, and at the end of the day I understand its intentions. So I submit this letter in recognition of the law of unintended consequences and to respectfully remind legislators of their own reactions when our absentee federal landlords impose restrictions on us.

The Honorable Scott Bedke
March 23, 2016

As Always – Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "O".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Brad Little