

Vote No on HJR 5

By Sen. Dan Schmidt, District 5, Moscow, Idaho

There is a proposed Constitutional Amendment on the November ballot, but folks can vote already (Vote Early!) so it should be discussed. Voters may remember it, since it is almost identical to one rejected two years ago. But our legislature seems to think it knows best, so we voted to put this before the voters again. (I was the only NO vote in the Senate.) There will be some lobbyists this time who will also try to convince you to change your judgment and support it. Don't listen.

The Idaho legislature now reviews all administrative rules and either accepts them or rejects them. This is currently in Idaho law, and has been supported by the courts.

Such a review treads close to the line where the balance of power between the branches of government tips. Putting this authority into the Idaho Constitution crosses that line and too strongly favors the legislature.

Two years ago I thought this was a reasonable move. I supported putting it to the voters. But before the election I listened to many wise people and in the ballot box I actually voted against it. I was thankful for that opportunity to redo my vote. I now urge you to oppose HJR5. It would shift the balance toward an already arrogant legislature. Balance is healthy and should be maintained.