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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Luke Malek**  District 4  Kootenai County  lmalek@house.idaho.gov  (208) 661-3881 |  | seal full color |  | COMMITTEES  Joint Finance and Appropriations  Judiciary and Rules  Local Government | |
|  | **House of Representatives****State of Idaho** | | |  |

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 29, 2015**

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**SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT FROM SERVICE PROVIDERS**

In an effort to get as much information as possible to a legislative working group grappling with how to proceed with procuring internet and related services to schools, libraries, state agencies, and promoting economic development statewide prior to the next legislative session, the co-chairs of the Broadband Access Study Committee, Senator Dean Mortimer (R-Idaho Falls) and Representative Luke Malek (R-Coeur d’Alene), are putting out a call to any vendors that may have an interest in testifying.

“Senator Mortimer and I have both been contacted by several vendors of internet and other services asking to have some time to share their perspective with the committee,” said Representative Malek. “We both definitely see the value in having the testimony of those who know the industry and who are innovating new tools for the use of technology.”

“We have to be fair about the way we manage the presentation of this information,” added Senator Mortimer. “Especially given the contention around this issue in the past, it is critical that no vendor gets any sort of preferential treatment.”

The issue was discussed briefly during the initial meeting of the committee, and the process for getting input from vendors received supportive comments from committee members.

The co-chairs are asking that interested vendors let the committee know how much time they would need for a presentation by **Tuesday, August 4, 2015**. Interested vendors can reach out to either co-chair directly or contact Brooke Brourman with the Legislative Services Office at (208) 334-4859.

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