



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR  
November 16, 2015

President Barack H. Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

In light of the Friday, November 13 ISIS-directed terrorist attacks in Paris, I call upon you to halt the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.

No refugee resettlement should continue until the vetting process for all foreigners crossing our borders can be fully reviewed and responses from states can be implemented. It is paramount that our citizens are protected before any effort to relocate individuals continues.

Idahoans' concerns warrant a complete re-evaluation of current practices and a more rigorous public education effort on the part of your administration to better explain the facts about this program and how the decision-making process affects our local communities.

While I understand that immigration and refugee resettlement are authorized under federal law, I am duty-bound to do whatever I can to protect the people of Idaho from harm. Instead of Congress rubber-stamping this program each year, we ask that you and Congress work with states and governors to thoroughly review this process and how states are affected.

Again, our safety must come first and be a shared priority. I recognize that my authority is limited on this issue, but I will use any legal means available to me to protect the citizens I serve.

Frustration with the federal immigration and refugee programs runs high in Idaho. Your attention and follow-through are essential if we are to protect Americans. It is my desire, and should be your goal, to reassure the people of Idaho that their views are respected and that consideration is given to enabling states to opt out of the refugee resettlement program.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho

Cc:

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senate  
239 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Risch  
U.S. Senate  
483 Russell Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2312 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Raul Labrador  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1523 Longworth HOB  
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