



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

April 6, 2015

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 262**

as prescribed by the Constitution.

I have worked hard to ensure that my years in public service reflect my political principles. Two of those principles are an emphasis on local control and a bias for free-market solutions. In House Bill 262, those two principles conflict, and I am left with the difficult choice of choosing one over another. Instead, I am choosing and encouraging watchful caution.

I believe entrepreneurs like the founders of the ride service called "Uber" are operating in the best traditions of the free market – identifying a niche, developing a response to consumer demand, and making that service work at a profit within the confines of an often confusing patchwork of local regulatory limitations.

I also understand completely the concerns expressed by local government authorities and some members of the Legislature about the impact of imposing statewide regulations on Uber's Idaho operations. I share fears about such regulations essentially trumping local restrictions, safeguards and – for lack of a better term on baseball's opening day – ground rules for doing business in each of our communities. I am wary of the State unwittingly creating a competitive advantage for Uber over small local taxi services or other competitors.

The House and Senate votes show that relatively few members of the Legislature share those concerns enough to reject the company's legislation, which indeed has been adopted by other states as well. But other states are not Idaho, and I encourage us all to watch carefully to ensure we remember that here, government closest to the people governs best.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho