



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2016

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Secretary of State
Idaho Capitol
Boise, ID 83720

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby advise you that I am transmitting today the following Senate Bill, which was allowed to become law without my signature:

S 1411

as prescribed by the Constitution the same having arrived in my office on March 28, 2016 at 2:25 PM.

While I have great respect for the separation of powers and the authority of the legislative branch to manage its employees, I cannot, in good conscience, sign this appropriation into law.

For the second consecutive year, the Legislature has chosen to appropriate additional personnel dollars for its employees. While I have no doubt that the hard working staff of the legislative branch merit compensation increases, the dedicated employees of the executive and judicial branches are no less deserving.

Further, my ability to act upon appropriation bills, particularly those that arrive on my desk after the legislature has adjourned, is limited by the manner in which the bills are drafted. Section 11 of the Idaho Constitution gives the Governor the power to disapprove "...any item...of any bill making appropriations of money embracing distinct items." The Legislature currently "rolls up" all items in an appropriation by fund for each program. This leaves little room for the exercise of the power given the Governor in the Constitution, and provides little transparency. I want to work with the Legislature prior to the next session to a new appropriation bill format with greater detail so that I can exercise my constitutional authority.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. 'Butch' Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Cc The Honorable Brad Little