



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2015

The Honorable Brad Little  
President  
Idaho Senate  
State Capitol  
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. President,

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved and vetoed, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

**S1011**

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 4:54 p.m. on March 30, 2015.

When the Legislature legalized pari-mutuel betting on historical horse races during its 2013 session, it was my hope that it would serve as a supplement, a shot in the arm for a struggling industry. I neither expected nor desired it to supplant live horse racing in Idaho, and it is my firm intention to limit and restrict this type of gambling in Idaho to race tracks.

Unfortunately, a beleaguered industry eager to get back on its feet financially expanded historical horse racing too quickly and without adequate safeguards to withstand inevitable scrutiny and criticism – not out of any enmity against a beloved Idaho tradition, but rather against the insidious specter of gambling's expansion unchecked in Idaho communities.

However, I do not believe it is too late to fulfill the promise of 2013 and refocus our attention on limiting and more effectively regulating rather than eliminating historical horse racing. In my view, a precious part of Idaho's western culture is at stake.

There are some actions that can be taken, even in the waning days of this legislative session, to salvage something for the many Idahoans whose livelihoods and lifestyles are tied to traditional horse racing. For instance, legislators still could act quickly to restrict historical horse racing to existing tracks as was envisioned in 2013. I also would welcome creation of a Gaming Commission to help fulfill the Legislature's constitutional responsibility to oversee pari-mutuel racing.

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Meanwhile, I have directed the Racing Commission to issue a moratorium on licensing new facilities to conduct historical horse racing or introducing additional historical horse racing terminals (see attached letter) until a Gaming Commission has been created and established operating rules that are sensitive to both community and industry concerns.

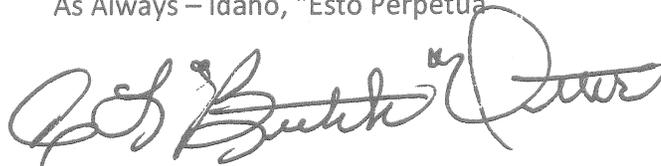
In the interim, the Racing Commission must more carefully and stringently regulate historical racing operations to ensure their consistency with legislative intent. Indeed, the Commission has the opportunity this very day to ensure that legislative intent is recognized in its reconsideration of an off-track facility's proposed operation in Idaho Falls.

And in an effort to establish definitively what so far has been the subject of opinion and speculation, I would ask the Legislature to join with me in appointing a special outside investigator as soon as possible to assess the legality of machines used at every facility that now conducts historical racing.

In vetoing this bill, what I'm seeking is an alternative capable of restoring public confidence in horse racing as a legitimate and even ennobling industry that is tied directly and irrevocably to race tracks, to stalls and starting gates, to paddocks and jockeys, and to people who love the sport.

I also would welcome working with the Legislature toward a more comprehensive and holistic review of the laws and policies governing all gaming in Idaho. Through that process, it is my hope that stakeholders and interested citizens will come together in a spirit of broader agreement on the proper limits to gambling in our state.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "O".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

April 3, 2015

Paul J. Schneider, Chairman  
Idaho State Racing Commission  
700 S. Stratford Dr.  
Meridian, ID 83642

Dear Chairman Schneider,

As soon as legally possible, I ask that the Idaho State Racing Commission officially impose an indefinite moratorium on the licensing of any new facilities for pari-mutuel betting on historical horse racing.

I also ask that the Racing Commission similarly impose an indefinite moratorium on any additional historic horse racing terminals being located at existing licensed facilities.

Please contact my legal counsel, Tom Perry, at (208) 334-2100 or via email at [tom.perry@gov.idaho.gov](mailto:tom.perry@gov.idaho.gov) if you have any questions about my intentions or how to proceed. Thank you for your prompt consideration.

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

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