



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Lawrence Denney  
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:

**H 376**

as prescribed by the Constitution.

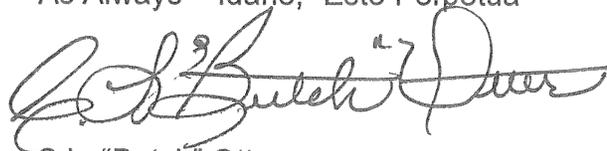
I support tort reform, and I both encourage and applaud legislative efforts to address it. However, I am concerned about the retroactive nature of this proposed solution and its public policy applicability beyond the case at hand.

I welcome discussions with the Legislature on a more comprehensive approach to addressing tort reform. However, H 376 sets the troubling precedent of reaching back to the 1970s to address liability exposure with only a tenuous connection to Idaho. It also seems to me to be written too narrowly and tailored too specifically to the issue prompting this legislation – a practice we seek assiduously to avoid.

I have no doubt about the worthiness of the effort or the validity of the public policy declaration H 376 seeks to make. My concern is rather with the manner in which the issue is addressed. I am confident that, working together, we can do better when confronted with an issue so critical to our economic well-being while also ensuring our citizens' rights to protection under the law.

The Honorable Lawrence Denney  
March 29, 2012

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

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

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Lieutenant Governor Brad Little