



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

April 5, 2019

The Honorable Janice McGeachin
President of the Senate
Idaho Legislature
Boise, ID 83720

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Madam President,

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

S 1159

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 4:35p.m. on 4/2/19.

I reluctantly vetoed S 1159 and plan to veto H 296 because I question the constitutional sufficiency of the bills and the unintended consequences of their passage. The bills invite legal challenges that likely will result in the Idaho initiative process being determined by the liberal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals – the same Circuit that recently decided Idaho should pay for gender reassignment surgery for a transgender inmate serving time for molesting a child. We need to do all we can to control the rules of our initiative process.

I have lived in rural Idaho my whole life. I appreciate and support our Legislature seeking ways to ensure the rights of all Idahoans – not just those in urban areas – have a voice in Idaho's initiative process. Just because you live in a rural area does not mean your view should be ignored.

Although S 1159 and its companion, H 296, attempt to give rural Idahoans a greater voice in the initiative process, I believe these bills could give a lone federal judge the only voice in defining our initiative process. I cannot in good conscience let that happen.

I agree with the goals and the vision of S 1159 and H 296. Idaho cannot become like California and other states that have adopted liberal initiative rules that result in excessive regulation and often conflicting laws. I also agree with many legislators that as technology and communications accelerate initiative efforts, we should prudently assure we do not have an initiative process that hamstring and replaces our representative system of government.

I appreciate the enormous outpouring of opinion from both sides of this issue. I have done the best I can to listen to my fellow Idahoans – those vocal and those generally quiet.

I look forward to working with the Idaho Legislature to more closely examine these issues moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little", written in a cursive style.

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho