



BRAD LITTLE
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Mike Moyle
Speaker of the House
Idaho House of Representatives
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on March 28, 2024, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following House Bill, to wit:

H 626

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 4:15 p.m. on March 26, 2024.

I agree with the premise of this legislation: whenever two parties are in court, they should be able to argue on equal footing without special preference given to either side and the decision should be made only on the merits and consistent with the law as enacted by the Legislature. I am encouraged at the broader national movement to depart from the Supreme Court decision establishing *Chevron* deference, which forced courts across the country to abdicate their constitutionally mandated duties to interpret the law by mandating deference to administrative agencies.

However, I am concerned about the potential for the abuse this bill could bring locally. We have worked hard to make Idaho the least-regulated state in the country. Idaho businesses have worked tirelessly and in good faith to ensure long-term stability and continuity in Idaho's regulatory environment and to keep our state a place where people want to raise their families and do business. This bill would allow and encourage groups with nothing more than narrow political agendas to bring meritless lawsuits against Idaho's most important industries and force them to spend their resources on needless litigation instead of innovation, growing the economy, and serving the people of Idaho.

I urge my partners in the Legislature to closely monitor the effects this legislation has in this regard, and to make any adjustments as necessary in the upcoming sessions to prevent groups from taking Idaho backward from all the progress we have made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho