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Idaho State Senate

SENATOR BART M. DAVIS

MAJORITY LEADER

March 30, 2012

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

At the end the 2012 Legislative session, I thank you for the honor to represent you in the Idaho State Senate. My first legislative priority is the people of Idaho Falls.

The Legislature's primary responsibility is to pass a balanced budget, while maintaining our priorities in education, public safety, healthcare, and protecting our way of life. As a result of partial economic recovery, Idaho was able to reverse the trend of dramatic budget cuts. This budget will:

- Increase public school funding by 4.6 percent from general funds;
- Increase college and university funding by 8.6 percent from general funds;
- Increase public employees' salaries by 2 percent;
- Restore at least \$80 million to state rainy-day funds; and
- Restore preventative health care for the disabled and developmentally disabled.

In addition, the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) was created that pairs research institutions with private businesses to help grow the Idaho economy and create high paying careers in Idaho. Also, IGEM fully funds the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES) at University Place in Idaho Falls. This is important to our region!

Also, Idaho did not raise taxes. Rather, with confidence in the economic direction of our state and a solid boost to our rainy-day funds, Idaho modestly reduced the personal income tax rate and the rate for our businesses. We hope this will encourage additional opportunity and investment in Idaho.

Idaho's Legislature adopted a texting-while-driving ban. In my opinion, this law will reduce accidents and save lives!

Idahoans are rooted in their history of hunting, fishing and trapping. You will be asked in November to approve a proposed constitutional amendment, passed by the Legislature, which preserves Idahoans' right to hunt, fish, and trap.

Idaho is indebted to the brave men and women serving in the armed forces who make it possible for our way of life. I felt compelled to honor seven Idaho soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice in combat during the past year, including Bonneville County's own Sergeant Ryan D. Sharp. After an emotional floor debate, participating families were aware that Idaho is forever grateful.

Thank you for your continued input and support.

Sincerely yours,


BART M. DAVIS