



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

March 28, 2017

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Speaker,

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

H197

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:15 a.m. on March 22, 2017.

While I appreciate the desire to establish an orderly process for conducting a special election to fill a vacancy in one of Idaho's seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, this legislation unnecessarily sacrifices timeliness for structure. I also appreciate the benefits of consolidated election dates. However, I find H197 overly proscriptive in response to what would be an extraordinary circumstance.

The governor now has discretion to set such elections, which should be conducted as soon as reasonably possible to ensure that Idaho's congressional representation is not diminished for any longer than necessary. H197 could leave the state without a way of filling a U.S. House vacancy for six months or longer. That is simply unacceptable.

I look forward to working with legislative leaders in the months ahead to develop a process for special congressional elections that provides the kind of expediency that Idaho citizens deserve in choosing their national representation.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho