



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR
April 6, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence Denney
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Mr. Secretary,

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

H202a

within the time limited by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 3:17 p.m. on March 28, 2017.

House Bill 202a is a classic case of a solution in search of a problem, with the potential to create problems of its own in the process. The fact that this bipartisan legislation was overwhelmingly approved by both the House and Senate is outweighed by compelling opposition from law enforcement and the absence of any benefit to law-abiding citizens from its enactment.

There have been no allegations that Idaho law enforcement officers or agencies are illegally or inappropriately seizing property from alleged drug traffickers. Its sponsors contend that the measure is aimed at preventing improper forfeiture of assets in the future, but there is no evidence to suggest that such a problem is imminent.

At the same time, there is a legitimate public safety concern associated with allowing those charged with drug crimes to keep money, cars and other civil assets that may be connected with those crimes. Not the least of these concerns is the potential for evidence to disappear or be tampered with.

What's more, it is my view that it is right and proper for drug dealers to have a healthy fear of losing their personal assets if they are caught breaking the law. But while seeking to ease those fears, this legislation goes even further by placing an annual reporting requirement on law enforcement. It is a misplaced effort to hold those responsible for protecting us from crime more accountable while relieving those charged with committing crimes of a worrisome consequence.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".
C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho