

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



SARA B. THOMAS
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March 14, 2019

President Pro Tem Brent Hill
Idaho Legislature
STATEHOUSE MAIL

Speaker of the House Scott Bedke
Idaho Legislature
STATEHOUSE MAIL

Chief Justice Roger Burdick
Idaho Supreme Court

Re: SB 1146 (2019) and future amendments to I.C. §59-502

Dear Mr. Pro Tem Hill, Mr. Speaker Bedke, and Chief Justice Burdick,

In order to change judicial compensation, Idaho Code §59-502, Salaries of Judges, must be amended by the Legislature. For the 2019 Legislative Session it was agreed by Legislative Leadership that a Judicial CEC proposal would be negotiated by the respective Chairman of the germane committees, Chairman Lakey and Chairman Dayley, and be heard in the respective Committees. Such an agreement was negotiated which is consistent with JFAC's CEC proposal for all other state employees, and the legislation reflecting this agreement is printed as SB 1146.

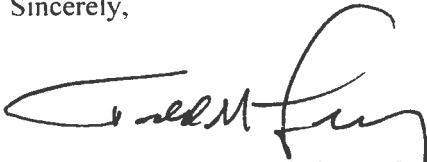
The Chairmen requested this letter of intention and willingness to discuss the "*ad hoc*" manner of when and how Judicial CEC is considered, as well as a general discussion regarding the impacts of judicial pay on the Judges' Retirement Fund (JRF), which discussions would occur between the Chairmen and representatives of the Court prior to the 2020 Legislative Session. This intention and willingness is consistent with the history of cooperation and collaboration between the two branches on these subjects.

The topics we agree to discuss are:

- Whether Judicial CEC should be consistent in timing or frequency with other state employee CEC; or should some other method be explored.
- The impact of Judicial CEC on the funding and related actuarial status of the JRF.

- The impact of the Plan B senior judge program on the JRF.
- The actuarial status of the JRF.
- In light of changing demographics being experienced in the state, the number and location of judges throughout the state.
- Recruitment and retention history of judges in order to promote the mandates of the Idaho Constitution and related statutes.
- All parties recognize other issues for discussion may arise.
- Following the 2019 session and before the 2020 session, the Administrative Director will initiate regular meetings, at least quarterly, in order to facilitate meaningful exchanges of information.

Sincerely,



Senator Todd Lakey, Chairman Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee



Representative Tom Dayley, Chairman House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee



Sara Thomas, Administrative Director of the Courts