



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

GOVERNOR

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Brad Little
President of the Senate
Idaho Legislature
Boise, ID 83720

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Dear Mr. President,

I hereby advise you that I have transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate Bill, to wit:

S 1254

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:45 a.m. on March 11, 2014.

As elected officials, we have a sworn responsibility to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States – not only when doing so is easy, convenient or without cost, but especially when it is not. This legislation challenges us to fulfill that charge, and we will.

It should be noted that to similarly meet the responsibilities of public safety, to mitigate potential unintended consequences and to assuage the significant and heartfelt concerns expressed by many during this debate, the State of Idaho and the Legislature in particular must appropriately and carefully monitor, oversee and manage those difficulties and costs.

The Constitution limits neither the reach nor the protection afforded to lawful carriers of firearms by the Second Amendment. Court precedent has empowered and circumstances have compelled government entities to carve out specific exceptions. This is not the circumstance to carve out another. I agree with the Legislature's determination that the burden of proving the necessity for such exceptions falls not to the citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights, but rather to any who would seek to limit them.

We all will be watching closely to ensure the interests of Idaho citizens are served while their constitutional freedoms are protected.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

Cc: Secretary of State