



**CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION**

September 16, 2010

Robert L. Geddes
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
700 West Jefferson Street, Room W332
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0081

Lawrence Denney
Speaker of the House of Representatives
700 West Jefferson Street, E303
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0038

Re: Full-Time or Part-Time Status of Idaho Legislators

Dear Pro Tempore Geddes and Speaker Denney:

Pursuant to Section 23, Article III, Constitution of the State of Idaho, and Sections 67-406a and 67-406b, Idaho Code, the Idaho Citizen's Committee on Legislative Compensation met at the Statehouse in Boise, Idaho, on September 15, 2010, to make its recommendations for the rates of compensation for services to be rendered by the members of the Sixty-First Idaho Legislature and the expenses to be incurred in rendering those services for the period commencing December 1, 2010 through November 30, 2012. A copy of those recommendations is being sent to you under separate cover.

There is, however, an additional issue that is of concern to the Citizen's Committee but is beyond the authority of the Citizen's Committee to resolve. That is the issue of whether members of the Idaho Legislature serve on a full-time or part-time basis.

This issue is of importance since the 2010 recommendations of the Citizen's Committee, as previous recommendations of the Citizen's Committee dating back to 1992 recommend continuation of the system for medical, dental, life insurance and retirement benefits as provided for other "state employees." As you are aware, the costs associated with those benefits to the state employee vary as to whether the employee is serving on a full-time or part-time basis.

Currently, the issue of whether members of the Idaho State Legislature serve on a full-time or part-time basis is the subject of important public discourse. The members of the Citizen's Committee recognized that members of the Idaho State Legislature are elected for two-year terms, are paid on a salary basis and perform important legislative functions outside the confines of the regular sessions. While these factors may weigh in favor of treating members of the Idaho State Legislature as serving on a full-time basis, there may be other views that weigh in favor of a part-time designation. Only the Legislature can resolve this matter by its own affirmative action.

The members of the Citizen's Committee have reached a consensus on one matter. The Citizen's Committee recommends that, whatever the decision of the Legislature on this question of legislator full-time or part-time status, the Legislature treat officeholders consistently with regard to the subject benefits.

Respectfully,

Richard W. Jackson
Chairman

cc: Don Burtenshaw
Bill Daniels
Katherine Moriarty
William F. "Bud" Yost
Debora Kristensen