



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

November 30, 2010

Rakesh Mohan, Director  
Office of Performance Evaluations  
Idaho Legislature  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0055

Dear Rakesh,

When an Idaho citizen or visitor is severely injured or experiences a sudden medical emergency, the performance of the system that responds to the resulting 9-1-1 call is of utmost importance. These emergency medical services, many of which respond in rural and remote areas at great distances from a medical facility, bring life-saving emergency medical care to the patient's side, not just a ride to the hospital. The Department of Health and Welfare has been fulfilling its legislative mandate of regulating these services for over 30 years, but times have changed, and so must our regulatory approach.

Counties, cities, ambulance districts, fire departments, fire districts, non-profit associations and private corporations are some of the diverse types of agencies providing ambulance services and other emergency medical response in Idaho. Most are heavily dependent on volunteers, a precious resource for many communities that otherwise would not enjoy the high level of care available to them today. It is critical that we work to assure that these services are stable and reliable. Our citizens' lives depend on it.

Assuring that the quality and integrity of these services are intact without creating unnecessary burden or expense at the local level is central to our state's interests. Key to our future success will be finding a system of governance that retains local autonomy and collaboration while also assuring accountability to the public and safety for patients.

I look forward to collaborating with the Legislature on finding an appropriate governance system for EMS agencies in Idaho.

As Always—Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. Butch Otter".

CLO/tp

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho