



House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 8, 2018

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee

Dear Committee Members,

Rural America has traded roles with inner-cities across the nation to become the leader in social and economic decay. Aging populations, the consolidation of farms and ranches into larger and larger operations, crumbling infrastructure, lack of economic opportunity and even internet connectivity, disparity between urban and rural school districts, loss of traditional jobs, untreated drug and alcohol addictions, and the migration of talent to higher paying jobs outside the community have contributed to the growing crisis.

Idaho fares no differently.

While ranked the “fastest growing state in the nation,” Idaho’s counties and communities are also experiencing a rapid and growing divide between the “have’s” and the “have nots.” These measurements include population growth, economic development and job growth, median income levels, and property values.

While these measurements of community vitality are wildly fluctuating across the state, one thing remains consistent: the cost of doing business is going up. Comprehensive services are required and provided by every local unit of government (counties, cities, schools and highway districts) across the state, regardless of the economic health of the region, the size of the taxing district, or the constraints imposed by the state on their ability to tax residents.

It is requested that the Office of Performance Evaluation determine the scope of legislative mandates levied against local units of government (specifically counties, cities, school and highway districts), then analyze what percentage of local units of government budgets are dedicated to meeting these mandates.

A follow up study may include a look at the impact of property tax exemptions, both real and personal, on the historical budgets of counties, cities, school and highway districts and a cost/benefit analysis of selected "mandates" to the counties, cities, schools and highway districts.

Thank you for your consideration,



Scott Bedke, Speaker of the House

Rep. Clark Kauffman, District 25




Rep. Terry Gestrin, District 8



Sen. Jeff Agenbroad, District 13



Sen. Carl Crabtree, District 7



Sen. Dan Johnson, District 6



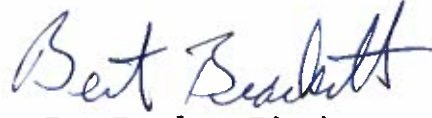
Rep. Caroline Troy, District 5



Rep. Steve Miller, District 26



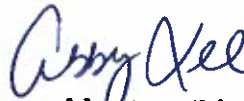
Rep. Tom Dayley, District 21



Sen. Bert Brackett, District 23



Sen. Mark Harris, District 32



Sen. Abby Lee, District 9