

Ms. Maxine Bell

194 S. 300 E.

Jerome, Idaho 83338

Representative Bell:

I do not live in your district. I live in Shoshone. I recently became aware of a Legislative Interim Committee Looking into Idaho's Purchasing Laws that you sit on. I'd like to share some frustrations with you.

I own and operate an Auto Parts Store in Shoshone. The State of Idaho use to support my business, mostly the Transportation Department here in Shoshone but also Fish and Game and occasionally others. Several years ago I noticed my sales to the State had ceased. I was concerned I'd done something wrong so I contacted the local ITD purchasing section. I was told that the State of Idaho had signed a contract written by the State of California with NAPA auto parts. They said this was a mandatory contract and they had no choice but to purchase all of their light duty auto parts from the local NAPA store. As you can imagine this did not settle well with me. I found and read the California NAPA contract on line. The contract clearly stated its use by State agencies was optional. I then contacted the local ITD purchasing group who informed me in Idaho the NAPA contract was considered an open contract therefore mandatory usage was required. Why does Idaho make other states optional contracts mandatory? That was when I discovered the kickback Idaho's State Division of Administration receives for every dollar a state agency spends. This shouldn't be legal. A contract should be in the best interest of taxpayers not the best interest of a state agency. I offered the State of Idaho competitive pricing often better pricing than NAPA. No hassle returns, same day delivery. All of the so called "soft costs" advantages NAPA provides. These mandatory contracts are hurting Idaho businesses. Local small Idaho businesses are not even given the opportunity to bid on a contract written by another state.

I would request that that you and your committee consider allowing contracts written as optional use by other states, remain optional in Idaho. I also feel that Idaho Purchasing contracts should be in the best interest of the Tax Payer not the best interest of the Idaho Department of Administration.

I am a small business in a small community and provide fair pricing and a great service. With these mandatory contracts I feel discriminated against.

Please feel free to share my concerns with other committee members.

Sincerely,

Anne Eschliman

Owner Operator

Ann's Auto & Ag Supply

415 North Greenwood

Shoshone, Idaho 208-886-2886