

members of the CWR.

Shawna Walsh Vice Pres.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY NAME IS ~~ROD GRAMER~~. I AM ~~PRESIDENT~~ OF IDAHO BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION, AND TODAY I AM SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF IBE'S 200 BUSINESS LEADERS FROM ACROSS OUR STATE.

[^]Rod Gramer

IDAHO'S BUSINESSES DESPERATELY NEED MORE WORKERS WHO HOLD POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIALS IN THE AREA OF STEM – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH.

WITHOUT STEM-EDUCATED WORKERS OUR EXISTING BUSINESSES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXPAND, AND IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO ATTRACT GOOD BUSINESSES TO OUR STATE.

HIGH AND RIGOROUS STANDARDS – STANDARDS THAT ARE BASED ON THE LATEST SCIENCE - FORM THE FOUNDATION WE NEED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THESE 21ST CENTURY CAREERS.

UNFORTUNATELY, OUR STATE HAS NOT YET APPROVED THE COMPREHENSIVE AND HIGH STANDARDS THAT OUR STUDENTS NEED. YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIX THAT BY APPROVING THE STANDARDS THAT ARE BEFORE YOU.

TO DO ANYTHING LESS THAN APPROVING THESE STANDARDS AS WRITTEN WILL SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE TO STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND TO THE POTENTIAL BUSINESSES THAT MIGHT CONSIDER LOCATING IN OUR STATE.

IBE URGES YOU TO APPROVE THE SCIENCE STANDARDS AS WRITTEN SO THAT OUR EDUCATORS CAN MOVE FORWARD IN PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE THOUSANDS OF STEM-RELATED JOBS THAT OUR EMPLOYERS DEMAND AND THAT WILL LEAD TO A STRONGER IDAHO ECONOMY.