



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

March 19, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Gubernatorial Certification under Section 1607 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dear Mr. President,

Proponents heralded the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Act) as a panacea for the country's economic woes. Likewise, opponents have decried the Act as wasteful and ineffective. Only time will tell, but one thing is clear: generations of Idaho taxpayers are now responsible to pay for its implementation.

In light of this and after careful and methodical review I decided to accept all of the federal funding under the Act. In addition to these funds, I am encouraging state agencies, local governments and other entities to compete for grants made available under the Act.

I prefer to apply this temporary federal funding, where appropriate under the Act, to create and protect private sector jobs and build infrastructure for Idaho's long-term prosperity. I have said repeatedly that we cannot expand programs or increase expectations with temporary funding.

To that end, I want to avoid, as much as possible, using any federal funds to create continuing commitments for state taxpayer dollars beyond stimulus funding and perceived entitlements to open-ended, permanent government assistance.

Therefore, pursuant to section 1607 of the Act, I certify the State of Idaho is requesting and will request funds under the Act and these funds will be used for their intended purposes, including creating jobs and promoting economic growth.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

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

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

CLO/dfh