



# Capitol Review

## A Weekly Legislative Report

Association Management Group

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*We continue to march forward with the end in sight for the 2010 Idaho Legislature. All indications are that they are still on track for an adjournment around Friday, March 26. Two important measures yet to be addressed are the appropriation bills for Health and Welfare and Public Education. These are destined to have a rocky road but reality is that each legislator knows that there are limited funds and a Constitutional requirement to balance the budget.*

### **FEDERAL HEALTH CARE REACTION**

With all the positioning on the health care issue, **Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter** stepped out and made national and international news with the release that if in fact the health care issue is mandated for states, he has instructed the Attorney General to immediately **file a lawsuit** challenging this decision. The news stations were flooded with pictures of Governor Otter and his frank, to-the-point statements. By evening, Otter's lead on this issue had garnered the attention of governors across the US and copies of the resolution and statement made by Otter were requested by other states to allow them the option of considering **whether or not to follow Otter's lead.**

### **CAMP**

#### **Don't bring a tent – bring \$**

**S1407** – The purpose of this legislation is to **establish a fund** in the State Treasury to facilitate implementation of Phase I of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan (CAMP), which was adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board as a component of the **Comprehensive State Water Plan** and approved by House Bill No. 264 of the 2009 legislative session. The ESPA CAMP establishes a program for managing water supply and demand in the ESPA and sets a goal of achieving an incremental net change to the ESPA water budget of **200,000 to 300,000 acre feet over the next ten years, and 600,000 acre feet** by the year 2030. The funding goals for Phase I of the ESPA CAMP

call for funding participation from water users contingent upon a **percentage of total funds being contributed by the state.** This legislation specifically recognizes and allows for **voluntary contributions** from water users to provide a portion of the funds necessary to implement Phase I of the ESPA CAMP.

This legislation **amends** section 421780, Idaho Code, to create the Secondary Aquifer Planning, Management and Implementation Fund to be **referred to as the Secondary Fund.** The Secondary Fund shall consist of moneys appropriated to the fund, moneys contributed by water users directly or through water delivery entities or districts having authority to contribute, or through contributions, gifts, or grants from any other source. The legislation provides that all moneys in the fund shall be used for the purposes for which the moneys were provided. The legislation provides that all moneys in the fund are appropriated continuously to the Water Resource Board for technical studies, facilitation services, hydrologic monitoring, measurement, and comprehensive plan development as well as for personnel costs, operating expenditures, capital outlay, and water projects. The moneys in the Secondary Fund shall not be subject to the provisions of the standard appropriations act of 1945 or the provisions of section 673516, Idaho Code. The legislation provides that the state treasurer shall invest the idle moneys in the Secondary Fund, and the **interest earned** on such investments shall be **retained by the fund.**

### **FOOD PRODUCERS BIRTHDAY**

At Wednesday's Food Producers meeting, a report on the history of the organization was provided to members. The organization was **started in 1970** and has a great history of impacting many public policy issues over the past 40 years. **NOTE:** If you would like a copy of the booklet that highlights some early documents and information about the organization, please call the office and we will send you a copy.

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## HAM AND EGGS

**S1411**, introduced in the Senate Ag Affairs Committee, was sent to the amending order in the Senate to address some **specifics related to poultry**. The legislation has been referred to as the ham and egg bill since it deals with the swine and poultry industries. However, on Wednesday, the legislation (**S1411a**) ran into more difficulties as the **swine industry representatives** said that they were never consulted on the proposed legislation that would move supervision of swine and poultry operations from DEQ to ISDA. Currently, the other livestock entities' management and supervision is handled by ISDA, and industry leaders from those industries are **pleased** with the leadership provided by ISDA in oversight of their facilities throughout the state. The measure is currently on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading calendar for the Senate. However, should the measure pass the Senate and be moved to the House at this late point in the session, there may be some positioning to be sure the legislation does not go forward.

## FILING DEADLINES FOR CANDIDATES

Friday, March 19, at 5:00 PM is the filing deadline for candidates. Already there have been **several** current legislators who have indicated that they are **not planning to run again** in this election cycle. Interestingly enough, there are some former legislators who want to **re-enter the contest** and seek a position back in the Idaho Legislature. With this being the final two years **before reapportionment**, there could be some short-term players who will try their hand at state government, knowing that their district will be realigned based upon the census figures. If you want to see a complete list of the candidates for State Constitutional officers, judges and legislators, their parties and where they come from, visit the Secretary of State's webpage. The current list is at the top of the home page.

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## FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CANDIDATES

In the past two weeks, Food Producers has heard from two candidates for the First Congressional District race on the Republican side. There is a third candidate who has not requested to speak before the membership.

**Candidate Vaughn Ward** comes with a military service background. Ward announced his desire for the position shortly after current congressman Walt Minnick was elected. Ward is passionate about his desire to represent Idaho citizens and would seek to serve on the agriculture and energy committees in Congress.

**Candidate Raul Labrador** is a current state legislator from Eagle. Raul is a bilingual immigration attorney. He would want to take a position on the judiciary committee and conservation committee. Labrador feels there are some fixes to the immigration issue and that he may enter the halls of Congress with the most experience possible in this area.

You can find more information on both candidates by visiting their websites:

Ward at [www.vaughnward.com](http://www.vaughnward.com)

Labrador at [www.labrador4idaho.com](http://www.labrador4idaho.com)

## FORMER SENATOR WETHERELL RECOGNIZED

A great friend to Idaho agriculture, former state Senator **Clair Wetherell**, Mountain Home, was honored this week by the Idaho Senate. Senator Wetherell **served for 12 years** in the Idaho Senate, many of those years as a member of the Senate Ag Affairs Committee. Prior to her public service, she was a **military nurse** for the US Navy in WW II. In 1946, the Wetherells moved to Mountain Home where Clair served as the **community's primary health provider** following the departure of the town's only doctor. Wetherell was the **first woman** to serve as president of the Chamber of Commerce in Mountain Home and later, the first woman on the City Council where she served for 8 years, becoming the council's **first female president**. Her late husband Bob also served in the Idaho Legislature. Senator Wetherell was in the Capitol this week as she was honored by the Senate for her dedication and service to Idaho.