



**For Immediate Release
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House Caucus Responds to SB 1159

BOISE, Idaho – The Idaho House Republican Caucus supports SB 1159 to expand voter involvement in the initiative and referendum process. The legislation increases the number of districts needed to get an issue on the ballot from 18 to 32, leveling the playing field for rural communities by giving them a bigger voice in the process rather than simply allowing urban communities to dictate Idaho policy.

“We have a legislative responsibility to look at policy to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all Idahoans,” said Representative Jason Monks. “These new requirements would not hinder the referendum process; only create more concise standards for statewide ballot questions.”

The purpose of this bill is to increase both transparency and voter involvement in the initiative and referendum process.

Idahoans have stated that they want the initiative process to be more thorough. SB 1159 requires more detail in the process including a proposed funding source, a non-binding fiscal impact statement and it ensures clarity during the signature process and at the polls.

“Prop 2 passed, and we want to adhere to the will of the voters. But Prop 2’s language did not give lawmakers direction on how to fund the program and ensure its longevity. Because of that lack of guidance, a lot of questions still exist on how to make the will of the people possible,” said Representative Sage Dixon. “These changes will help improve the implementation process for future initiatives.”

SB 1159 is currently under consideration in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

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