



**For Immediate Release  
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### **Idaho Legislature Seeks Judgment Confirming Legislative Control of Capitol Floors**

**BOISE, Idaho** – Speaker of the Idaho House Scott Bedke and President Pro Tem of the Senate Brent Hill are seeking a District Court’s declaratory judgment, as they work to compel the State Treasurer, Julie Ellsworth, to follow state law regarding Statehouse office space.

Idaho Code section 67-1602(3) defines use and control of Capitol space and the attached letter from 2007 legislative leadership President Pro Tem Robert Geddes and House Speaker Lawrence Denney further explains the history. By law, the Executive Branch only controls the second floor of the Capitol. The use of floor space on the garden, first, third and fourth levels is determined by the Legislative Branch. Treasurer Ellsworth is currently occupying space on the first floor.

“We didn’t want it to come to this, but the Treasurer is refusing to acknowledge the law,” said Speaker Bedke. “More than a decade ago Idaho law determined legislative control of certain levels in the Capitol because of our increasing need for space. Our elected officials need space that will allow them to conduct constituent meetings with the assurance of privacy, as well as performing required legislative duties.”

Speaker Bedke and President Pro Tem Hill, without any obligation to do so, offered the Treasurer an opportunity to retain the traditional office and office space for certain personnel. Again, the Treasurer refused.

“This needs to be resolved,” said Speaker Bedke. “We have confidence the District Court will see the state law for what is and declare that we have the right to our space.”

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