



IDAHO HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

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House of Representatives Requests Capitol Restoration and Renovation Agreement from 2008 be Recognized

BOISE, Idaho – The Idaho House of Representatives is asking Idaho State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth to not stall a negotiated compromise set more than a decade ago in an effort to save taxpayers money during the remodel. During the Capitol renovation and restoration in 2008 Legislative leadership at the time and former Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter struck a deal to eliminate the expense of adding a second level in the underground wings, reducing its request of a needed 50,000 square feet of space down to 25,000 square feet. The negotiated compromise gave the Executive Branch control of the entire second floor and ceded the first, third and fourth to the Legislative Branch. *(see Idaho Statute 67-1602)*

“Our request is not unrealistic or malicious. All other Constitutional officers have made the move and understand the growing need in Idaho, we ask the same of Treasurer Ellsworth,” said Speaker Bedke. “If you look at the opportunity provided to the Treasurer, the negotiated space provides the Treasurer’s office with an additional 150 square feet of space.”

Even though the statute (67-1602) was changed in 2007, House leadership allowed former Treasurer Ron Crane the opportunity to continue to remain in his office on the first floor on a temporary basis or until his retirement. Now the House is simply asking the Treasurer’s office to adhere to the existing law while still allowing the ceremonial office, where the historic vault is located, to remain. The move will allow for easier access for those doing business with the Treasurer’s office by consolidating staff to one more accessible location.

“As leader of the House of Representatives, it is my duty to abide by the agreement and we are at a point that House members need the additional space to conduct the people’s business. We needed the space when the renovations were happening, but the House graciously waited. Now our state is growing, and the elected officials need offices that will allow them to conduct meetings with their constituents and an ability to get the people’s work completed in an even more efficient manner,” explained Speaker of the House, Scott Bedke.



Currently the Attorney General and Secretary of State hold ceremonial offices in the Capitol but much of their staff are in other state buildings. The Controller has completely relocated, as has the Idaho Supreme Court.