



For Immediate Release
July 20, 2020

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Speaker Bedke and Pres. Pro Tem Hill Win Lawsuit against Treasurer

BOISE, Idaho – District Judge Nancy Baskin is directing State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth to adhere to the law, which means vacating her Statehouse office. In a pointed decision filed this morning (July 20), the Honorable Judge Baskin ruled Idaho Code clearly states that the Legislature has the sole authority to control and allocate the space on the first floor of the Capitol.

“We never wanted it to come to this, but our hand was forced,” said Speaker of the House Scott Bedke. “The Treasurer has wasted an incredible amount of taxpayer dollars and we applaud the decision by Judge Baskin and hope to move forward without further delay.”

Speaker Bedke and President Pro Tem Brent Hill were forced to file the complaint in June after Ellsworth refused to follow state law, found in Idaho Code section 67-1602(3). The court agreed with Legislative leadership, finding that the Treasurer’s interpretation of an alleged 2007 agreement allowing their office to stay on the 1st floor was without merit, and “would be tantamount to enacting legislation outside of the normal legislative process, and would eviscerate the democratic principles upon which the Idaho Constitution is based.”

The Legislature had attempted negotiating with the Treasurer, even offering to allow her to stay in her current suite with some staff. She demanded more, even though she, like most other Constitutional Officers in Idaho, already has staff in many other locations. Today’s decision makes it very clear, however, that “there is no constitutional or statutory provision which requires the State Treasurer’s office to be located in the Capitol building... The location of the Treasurer’s office does not impact the Treasurer’s constitutional or statutory powers.”

The Idaho House Republican Caucus hopes that the Treasurer accepts the decision and abides by it, so that we all can move forward.

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