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Idaho State Senate

BRENT HILL
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

July 6, 2020

Senator Steve Bair
947 West 200 South
Blackfoot, ID 83221

Dear Chairman Bair:

Due to the unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, challenges have emerged regarding a number of public policies. It is evident that our existing statutes never anticipated a crisis of this type and magnitude. To address these challenges, Speaker Bedke and I are establishing a number of interim working groups to study our existing policies, seek public input, and determine whether statutory changes or additions should be considered by the Legislature in the future. Each working group should prepare a report for the 2021 Legislature that will include proposed legislative options for the Legislature to evaluate and possibly recommendations from the working group.

It is my pleasure to appoint you, as the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, as co-chair of a working group that will consist of the members of the germane Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. The working group will meet as needed to complete its assignment. Meetings may be held in person or remotely, at the co-chairs' discretion. If in-person meetings are held, arrangements need to be made for working group members to participate and vote remotely. All working group members may vote on actions proposed by the working group, but any motions must be passed by a majority of the Senate Finance Committee as well as a majority of the House Appropriations Committee.

The major issue to be considered by the working group deals with the management of unusually large amounts of non-cognizable funds received by the state under certain circumstances, such as the funding received in response to the current pandemic under the federal CARES Act. The working group should consider the health and safety of the public, the urgency in expending such funds, transparency of the transactions, and the Legislature's role in the process.

Thank you for your willingness to dedicate your time and abilities to making this working group a success. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am always happy to visit with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent Hill".

Brent Hill

cc: Speaker Scott Bedke
Legislative Services Office
Senator Daniel Johnson
Senator Abby Lee
Senator Jeff Agenbroad
Senator Carl Crabtree
Senator Scott Grow
Senator Van Burtenshaw
Senator Jim Woodward
Senator Janie Ward-Engelking
Senator Mark Nye
Senate Majority and Minority Leadership