

REQUEST FOR THE GOVERNOR:

Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce asks for support of initiatives

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As a legislator, lieutenant governor, U.S. representative and business executive, Butch Otter has always shown an understanding of business issues — since he first ran for governor in 1978.

Below are some of the initiatives the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce holds especially important and we'd be pleased to hear Gov. Otter mention them in his State of the State address. These items are more than just a wish list — these items further the Boise Valley Initiative for Prosperity, a five-year effort now under way to attract well-paying jobs in high-value industries to the Treasure Valley.

- A second GARVEE bond for \$200 million, which would allow Idaho to accelerate transportation projects, including widening Interstate I-84 from Micron Technology Inc. to Caldwell.
- A community college system in Southwest Idaho to provide increased access and affordable education, promoting economic and work force development.
- Local option funding for public transportation. Valley Regional Transit needs to expand services to address the needs of the Ada-Canyon metro area with a stable funding source. A business-led, regional coalition has recommended the election for voter approval of local option taxation would occur only in November of even-numbered years.
- Our area's airshed needs to remain within EPA standards or we risk losing federal transportation funding. The Treasure Valley Air Quality Council has recommended a number of measures and these need legislative approval.

We look forward to working with Gov. Otter and hope he keeps the economic needs of Idaho at the top of his agenda.

Nancy Vannorsdel is president and CEO of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce.