



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

July 5, 2018

Dear Directors,

On July 1, the new Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) was officially launched. The Idaho Legislature created ITS with its approval of House Bill 607 during the 2018 session. The bill had two primary objectives: creating the ITS structure and aligning all the State of Idaho's statutory information technology (IT) authority under a single agency. The bill also merged the roles of the Director of Information Security and the Office of the Chief Information Officer, which previously was in the Department of Administration. ITS now is part of the Executive Office of the Governor and is led by Director Jeff Weak and Deputy Director Greg Zickau.

My goal is to consolidate, streamline and improve our IT operations. In leading that effort, ITS will find ways to make IT more uniform, interchangeable and user friendly throughout State government. It also will develop and implement more functional solutions for our cybersecurity, email, network operations, help desk and telephone needs. All that will be accomplished using a phased approach, addressing each agency individually and ensuring that every unique operational requirement is met.

The consolidation will involve all of Idaho's Executive Branch agencies shifting from the role of IT providers to that of consumers, with ITS leading the way in addressing our shared challenges. By doing so, agencies can focus on their core operational functions in providing efficient, innovative services to our citizens.

ITS now is a reality, but significant planning remains to be done. One of the first steps is for ITS to review and approve all current IT procurements and contracted services. The intent is to standardize solutions across agencies in order to save taxpayer dollars and winnow down the portfolio of IT products we use.

My expectation is that you and your agency will fully support the efforts led by ITS. Agency input is vital to building an effective strategy and will ensure our success.

I'm excited for what the future holds for the State of Idaho's IT. I'm convinced this initiative will better protect our citizens' sensitive personal information, improve public services, help drive down taxpayer costs, and make all our lives a little better. Thank you for embracing these important changes.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho