

March 9, 2015

Department Director

Re: Changes Regarding the Council for Purchases from Non-Profit Businesses that Serve People with Disabilities

Dear Director,

As you know, Idaho law encourages agencies to purchase goods and services produced by people with disabilities participating in private and non-private community rehabilitation programs in Idaho. This is done through Idaho Code 67-2319, which allows state agencies, departments, and political subdivisions of Idaho to purchase products and services produced by people with disabilities in a rehabilitation program without advertising or calling for bids, primarily because it is in the public interest.

In lieu of reestablishing a formal Idaho Use Council to promote this effort and monitor implementation of measures consistent with advancing its interests, I also have asked that ACCESS-Idaho (the central non-profit agency) continue to carry out the functions set forth in the bylaws of the Idaho State Use Council. These functions have been performed effectively under those bylaws, and it is my view that functions required by the state use law are necessary to provide a system of checks and balances.

ACCESS-Idaho will continue providing reports to me and my office describing the contracts, contract values, persons served, wages paid and other information that is being provided to people with disabilities. I am encouraging all agencies to take ownership of this activity and to purchase goods and services in accordance with this statute when appropriate.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting this important group of Idaho citizens.

As Always—Idaho, “Esto Perpetua”

C.L. “Butch” Otter  
Governor of Idaho