



SCOTT BEDKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 27, 2025

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing in support of the University of Idaho's Community Project Funding request for the infrastructure for the Idaho Water Center in fiscal year 2026. This funding will support the necessary equipment to allow the University of Idaho to be a one-stop shop for critical data related to water quantity and quality.

Idaho has a rich history of water law. Whether it is the Snake River Basin Adjudication which created certainty for water rights, or significant investments in water infrastructure by the state, Idaho has been able to effectively manage water. For the sake of future generations, and planning for growth, we need to archive this data and create a space to model future uses of the water. That is why this request is so timely and necessary.

The one-time funding for equipment and building improvements will be used to preserve the history of Idaho's water data and law files so future generations can appropriately plan for future water use in agricultural, urban, and rural communities. The existing staff and students at the University of Idaho are ready to begin archiving data that will be available to communities throughout the state for planning future water use.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request and for your leadership on natural resource issues. Idaho benefits from your position on the House Appropriations Committee, and this request would be another beneficial project in Idaho that will live far beyond our generation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Bedke".

Scott Bedke
Lieutenant Governor