

***Benton, Ellis & Associates***  
**Governmental and Public Policy Consultants**  
11220 W. Daniel Ct.  
Boise, Idaho 83713

**Larry Benton**  
(208)461-2000  
Fax (208) 337-5631  
[benton.ellis@yahoo.com](mailto:benton.ellis@yahoo.com)

**Kris Ellis**  
(208)250-3132  
Fax (208) 375-1264  
[krisellis@cableone.net](mailto:krisellis@cableone.net)

**Legislative Update**  
**April 10, 2009**

**Legislative Overview,**

The legislature continues to meet in what could well turn out to be the longest session in Idaho history. This week the House defeated several proposals that would have increased the gas tax anywhere from 10 cents over two years, to 2 cents this year. The Governor has requested over \$200 million for ongoing road repairs that are needed. It remains to be determined how or even if this request will be met. The budgets have all been set by the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee and are working their way through the House and Senate and will begin to show up on the Governor's desk next week. Whether these budgets, as written, will be acceptable to the Governor's office also is not clear. Most other issues have been resolved; if the budget and transportation funding issues are resolved "going home" could occur as soon as next week. If not, legislators could well be in town until May.

**Architecture Issues:**

**HB 92:** This legislation is brought by the Bureau of Occupational Licenses and the Architecture Board. The purpose is to clarify that applicants may begin the examination process upon graduation and the commencement process. *This legislation has become law and will be in effect July 1, 2009.*

**HB 114:** This legislation is brought by the Division of Building Safety. This legislation would adopt the 2006 editions of the International Building Code, and International Residential Code, and allow the board and local governments to make such code editions effective January 1 of the year following the adoption by the board. *This legislation is being held at the request of the Division of Building Safety.*

**HB 202:** This legislation limits the authority of the local fire chiefs in enforcing International Fire Codes. It adopts the 2006 International Fire Code, and gives cities and counties the discretion to adopt fire codes of parts thereof which suit the needs of their locality. *This legislation failed in the Senate committee.*

**HB 218:** This legislation exempts single family dwellings and multiple family dwelling buildings up to four units from the requirements to install automatic sprinkler systems. *This legislation has been sent to the 14<sup>th</sup> order for amendments.*

**HB 220:** This legislation has many components:

1. It amends the Idaho Building Code Board by adding an additional contractor member.
2. It adopts the 2006 International Building Code, and Residential Code.
3. It provides for subsequent adoption of codes through an expanded negotiating rules process.
4. It restricts local jurisdictions from adopting amendments to the code that are not adopted by the board without a public hearing and an ordinance change.

*This legislation has passed the House and Senate is awaiting the Governor's signature.*

**SB 1147:** This legislation allows the Idaho Transportation Department to solicit and award contracts using a design-build method of procurement for highway projects. The legislation also requires rules to be promulgated prior to any design-build contracts being awarded. *This legislation is currently on the 14<sup>th</sup> order awaiting amendments.*

If you have any questions about these or any other legislative issues please let us know.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your association,  
Kris and Larry