

## SENATE REPUBLICANS CLARIFY POSITION ON MCGEE LEADERSHIP VOTE

(January 20, 2012)

A group of Republican senators issued a joint statement clarifying their position on last week's decision to retain Sen. McGee as Caucus Chairman.

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*"Various news reports have led many of our constituents to mistakenly conclude that all members of the Senate GOP Caucus voted to affirm support for Sen. McGee continuing as our Caucus Chairman, and thereby protect him from the consequences of his actions. This is not accurate.*

*Senator McGee is our friend and colleague. It is our desire that he successfully overcomes the challenges of last years' events. It is also our desire to uphold the integrity of the institution that we serve. We believe that the best way for both of these objectives to be achieved would have been for Sen. McGee to be removed from his leadership role. Last Wednesday (Jan. 11) in the majority caucus meeting, we voted accordingly. However, on this vote we were in the minority.*

*Our constituents expect us to stand up for the convictions, principles and values we have said we represent and for which our constituents represent; and our constituents deserve to be reassured that their confidence in us is not misplaced. Given the toxic political climate that exists today, it is critical that we strive to uphold the highest standards of conduct in order to safeguard the public trust.*

*It is our hope that, by going public with our position on the leadership question, we can intensify our attention on other issues facing our state. Idaho needs her elected officials to focus on the critical challenge of stimulating job creation and rebuilding the economy. That is what we intend to do. Continued questions of who serves, and the capacity in which they serve, is in the hands of the individual members of the senate majority caucus and the electorate."*

*Russ Fulcher*  
*Monty Pearce*  
*Chad Strickland*  
*Sean W. Mortimer*  
*Sen. J. Chisholm*

*Shirley N. Kague*  
*Lu Deider*  
*Mitch Tomyanski*  
*Sheryl L. Neupel*