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Dear UIAA Board Members,

I am reaching out to support your urgent action to allow the University of Idaho Alumni Association to provide additional legislative support to our alma mater.

As some of our closest and most deeply involved volunteers, you know this legislative session is like none we have seen. Along with our higher education counterparts, the U of I faces a growing and concerning number of policy issues, which seem to change almost daily. The risks are real and threaten to hinder our progress and ability to deliver academic excellence, research innovation and student success.

To ensure that our university's interests are effectively represented in these arenas, I am strongly supporting the UIAA's interest in hiring a skilled and experienced lobbyist. This individual would serve as a dedicated advocate for our alumni and their support of our institution, working tirelessly to promote our priorities, secure funding and shape policies that support our mission.

As a publicly funded institution, we do not engage in direct lobbying activities. Although we have a strong governmental relations liaison, the U of I expressly focuses on educating legislators on priorities and requests. However, a 501(c)(3) organization not receiving state funding, such as the University of Idaho Alumni Association, can because the IRS allows 501(c)(3)s to participate in a limited amount of lobbying activities.

Just as you do, I realize this is uncharted territory for UIAA. However, it is not uncommon for other universities, including Boise State University, to have a lobbyist contracted through their alumni association. It is important to note that this is a short-term need to help us through this current legislative session. Following the close of this session, we will focus our attention on devising a longer-term plan and welcome your input.

I am very grateful for your consideration of this need. Your voice and willingness to support our most urgent university needs has been instrumental in shaping the success of our university, and I am confident that with your help we can rise to meet today's challenges.

Thank you for your time and willingness to come together quickly to help. Should you have any questions you can reach out to Amy Lientz (amyrl@uidaho.edu) or Caroline Nilsson Troy (cntroy@uidaho.edu).

Go Vandals!

C. Scott Green
President