

Residents of Jefferson County,

As members of the 7th Judicial District Bar, we practice as defense attorneys, civil litigators, prosecutors, in-house counsel, and transactional attorneys. We typically stay out of prosecutorial races because, in our experience, these races are usually between experienced candidates with differing, but solid, policy objectives or backgrounds. However, in the case of Jefferson County, we feel an obligation to weigh in.

Over his twenty-six years of experience, many of us have personally worked with Mr. Butikofer or the attorneys in his office on civil and criminal cases. In our dealings, we have found them to be firm, fair, transparent, and professional in all aspects. Their primary concern is the protection of the community. The office has struck a good balance between that and saving the taxpayers money by avoiding unnecessary litigation.

Mr. Butikofer has a strong reputation amongst attorneys in the area and it is well-earned. His opponent's statement that his background as a public defender should disqualify him from holding the office of prosecutor is startling and shows a fundamental lack of understanding of the criminal process. Years of experience in preparing defenses, critiquing police work, and understanding criminal clients gives Mr. Butikofer insight and ability that he would not otherwise have.

We have also reviewed Mr. Taylor's policy stating that a prosecutor should charge a case when the case has issues with the evidence because it is the responsibility of the judge, not the prosecutor, to decide the case. We could not object to this position more strenuously. Rule 3.8(a) of the Idaho Rules of Professional Conduct specifically addresses this and is very clear that a prosecutor must be a minister of justice and take special precautions to avoid the conviction of innocent persons. Almost every wrongfully convicted person had a case supported by probable cause. It takes a prosecutor with courage and experience to make difficult charging decisions. Paul Butikofer has both.

We ask you to consider our opinions, but check the facts for yourselves. Our Federal and State Constitutions safeguard our liberties, but we need good public officials willing to protect us from overreach to safeguard the freedom and safety of the citizens of Jefferson County. Paul Butikofer has demonstrated that he is a capable lawyer and a strong servant of the County.

Attorney's in Support of this Letter:

<i>Curtis R. Smith</i>	<i>Tyson N. Raymond</i>	<i>Brian T. Tucker</i>	<i>Challis A. McNally</i>
<i>Aaron J. Woolf</i>	<i>Jedediah A. Bigelow</i>	<i>Jeromy W. Stafford</i>	<i>Kelly D. Mallard</i>
<i>Marty R. Anderson</i>	<i>Douglas K. Knutson</i>	<i>John E. Cutler</i>	<i>Scott R. Hall</i>
<i>Dennis P. Wilkinson</i>	<i>Shan B. Perry</i>	<i>Sean J. Coletti</i>	<i>Weston S. Davis</i>
<i>Zachary D. Lords</i>	<i>Jason C. Gustaves</i>	<i>Marvin R. Stucki</i>	<i>Douglas R. Nelson</i>
<i>Barton J. Birch</i>	<i>Lance J. Schuster</i>	<i>H Alayne Bean</i>	