



NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Idaho Senate approves appointment of Dr. John Rusche to the Idaho Water Resource Board**

BOISE - (Feb. 16, 2017) – The Idaho Senate voted on Thursday to approve the gubernatorial appointment of Dr. John Rusche of Lewiston to serve on the Idaho Water Resource Board through Jan. 1, 2019. He replaces former state Rep. Chuck Cuddy of Orofino on the board.

Dr. Rusche, a Democrat, served for 12 years in the Idaho Legislature and was House Minority Leader for eight years. Prior to that, he was Medical Director of Regence Blue Shield of Idaho for 11 years and served as Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Regence BlueShield of Idaho and Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah before his retirement in 2005.

Prior to going to medical school, Rusche earned a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

“I look forward to serving on the Idaho Water Resource Board – it’s been very interesting and a real learning experience so far,” said Rusche, who has been serving on the board for several months since Cuddy retired. “What I bring to the board is a broad view of the importance of water to the economy of Idaho and to our cities and communities.”

Rusche points out that he’s been involved in water issues in the City of Lewiston, and he’s concerned about declining water levels in the Palouse Aquifer and ensuring that Idaho gets its fair share of water from the Rathdrum-Prairie Aquifer in the Coeur d’Alene and Spokane region.

“I bring a broad view to the table, and I feel that my past experience in building coalitions and partnerships may be helpful to the board,” Rusche said.

Cuddy received a Water Statesman Award from the Idaho Water Users Association at its annual convention this week for his ten years of service on the Idaho Water Resource Board.

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