



**BRAD LITTLE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

## **Press Release**

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### **SHUTDOWN AFFECTING IDAHO JOBS, ADMINISTRATION INACTION TO BLAME**

**(Boise)**— Lieutenant Governor Brad Little, whose top priority is job creation and business expansion, was contacted earlier this week by Jensen Lumber Company about the possible closure of its sawmill because of the refusal of the U.S. Forest Service to comply with the conditions of forest health timber sales. Jensen Lumber Company is one of the largest private employers in Bear Lake County.

Additionally, critical fire rehabilitation has stopped, jeopardizing wildlife habitat, watersheds, and public safety.

“As we have seen with the National Parks, the Obama Administration has clearly wanted to make this shutdown as painful as possible for American citizens,” stated Lieutenant Governor Little. “This action will eliminate the last sawmill in southeastern Idaho, an important tool for forest health and fire prevention.”

“There is broad consensus in Idaho that our surviving timber industry is critical to healthy forests. With the stop in federal timber sales and harvest, everyone loses— the last sawmill in southwestern Idaho closes down, rural communities lose jobs, forest health is at greater risk, and the federal debt crisis is made worse and still left unaddressed,” said Lieutenant Governor Little.

Meanwhile, sawmills across the West with contracts for federal timber wait. “It is unfair that federal employees are going to be paid during this furloughed time, while private companies in Idaho, like the Jensen Lumber Company, are losing money every day the federal government is shut down,” said Lieutenant Governor Little. “Common sense dictates that the administration put Forest Service employees back on the job so Idaho’s economy and precious resources don’t suffer any more.”

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