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PERSI KEEPS LEGISLATORS INFORMED
Boise, Idaho – July 8, 2011

PERSI Executive Director Don Drum has been sending out a series of communiqués to Idaho State Legislators regarding public pension issues. This ongoing educational effort is designed to keep lawmakers apprised of breaking news that might impact Idaho.

Along with a cover letter, documents sent to legislators have included a three-page research study titled *Pension System Perspectives in Today's Environment* that spells out the risks and rewards of public pensions; an article from the Idaho Statesman's *Business Insider* magazine featuring PERSI Chief Investment Officer Bob Maynard on how PERSI stayed focused during the Great Recession; and the most recent documents included a comparison of Idaho's system to the Utah system, which is held by some as the model to watch. Also included in this third installment was a newly released study by Associate Professor Jun Peng from the University of Arizona School on Government and Public Policy and Ilana Boivie, Director of Programs for the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS) titled *Sensible Solutions, Model Public Pension Funding Practices: Lessons from Six Well-Funded Systems*. PERSI was cited in the report as using best practices necessary for fund stability and sustainability and was recognized for remaining well-funded throughout the economic downturn.

As Director Drum begins traveling the state over the summer to visit with lawmakers, employers, members, and constituency groups, he will answer questions relating to these materials and continue gathering insights from various perspectives to help create or guide PERSI initiatives going forward. The materials shared with state lawmakers are available on the PERSI website following this link: http://www.persi.idaho.gov/pension_news.cfm

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