

MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Lincoln Auditorium (WW02)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Lodge, Rice, Buckner-Webb, and Nelson
Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Anderson, Anderst, Horman, Moon, Scott, Ehardt, Furniss, Hartgen, Lickley, Raybould, Young, Smith, Chew, Ellis, and Mason

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Burtenshaw, House Vice Chairman Amador, and Representative Armstrong

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Brackett** convened the joint meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee and the House Environment, Energy and Technology Committee (Committees) at 1:34 p.m. He said that House Chairman Vander Woude was presenting in another committee and would be joining the meeting shortly.

PRESENTATION: **Electric Vehicles and Idaho's Future** — **Chairman Brackett** invited John Chatburn, Administrator of the Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR); Jennifer Visser, Director of Government Affairs for Idaho Power; and Elli Brown, Policy and Outreach Specialist for the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) to begin their presentation.

OFFICE OF ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES PRESENTATION: **Mr. Chatburn** said that OEMR is part of the Office of the Governor because of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that former Governor Otter signed with seven other western states — Arizona, Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. They are commonly referred to as the Regional Electric Vehicle West states. They voluntarily collaborate when a member builds major highways and interstate infrastructure to accommodate electric vehicles, trying to prevent electric highways that don't connect at the border.

Mr. Chatburn touched on the agreement reached between the U.S. and Volkswagen over the company's emission cheating devices. Idaho can request about \$17 million of the Volkswagen Settlement funds to use toward mitigating emissions in Idaho: 15 percent for light-duty alternative fuel infrastructure; 85 percent for replacement of heavy-duty vehicles with all-electric vehicles and heavy-duty charging infrastructure. The Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) program is Idaho's light-duty alternative fuel infrastructure program, with plans to create fast charging stations on Idaho highways and interstates. He listed the proposed alternative fuels corridors for EVSE throughout the state.

Mr. Chatburn concluded his presentation by sharing there were currently five stations operating in Idaho along Interstate 84 in Boise, Mountain Home, Heyburn, Chubbuck, and Idaho Falls.

**IDAHO POWER
PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Visser began by claiming everyone present were Idaho Power customers. She talked about Idaho Power's customer focus and trends within their industry regarding electric vehicles, decarbonization, and battery storage. She discussed the different needs among the regions of Idaho — Southern Idaho, the Treasure Valley, Central Idaho, and North Idaho.

Ms. Visser continued by stating that activity around electric vehicles have received a lot of attention on social media and in the press. She picked up on Mr. Chatburn's discussion about the proposed charging locations to be developed in Idaho with the Volkswagen Settlement money. She said there are a total of 29 proposed locations that will be developed over three phases and showed a map of their locations — there are nine locations in Phase 1, twelve locations in Phase 2, and eight locations in Phase 3. She closed by quoting a study done by INL that said: "Idaho's premium fees for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids are set too high. They unfairly penalize electric vehicle and plug-in hybrid owners, charging them nearly double a fair fuel tax."

**IDAHO NATIONAL
LABORATORY
PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Brown apologized that INL's advanced electric vehicle experts were not available for this presentation. She referred to the handout entitled "Idaho Researchers Help Electrify Yellowstone to Glacier Road Trip" as giving an overview and insight into what their experts do for INL, which is available on their website. Their experts provide unbiased, real world information accumulated from their government and industry partners.

DISCUSSION:

The presenters fully responded to questions and offered to deliver more information to the following members of the Committees: Senate Chairman Brackett, Senate Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senator Nelson, Representative Mason, Senator Winder, Representative Moon, Senator Rice, Representative Anderst, Representative Scott, Representative Ehardt, House Chairman Vander Woude, Representative Chew, and Senator Den Hartog.

The subjects of discussion included: cost of projects; tracking charging stations; inquiries of future charging station locations; whether the State would buildup the highway network similar to surrounding states; content of the MOU; charging time of vehicles; weather's effect on batteries; retrofitting vehicles to electric power; rapid changes in technology affecting budgets for future charging stations; tax incentives and the federal government offering more incentives; the effect on public utilities by increasing electric vehicles; efficient electric trucks; cost to an individual charging their vehicle; free charging stations in parking garages and Costco; sponsored tours of INL's alternative vehicles lab; the status of an awareness outreach effort to communities; request for updated information on fees charged by the State; local chargers located at gas stations; and opportunities available to go back to considering registration fees.

ADJOURNED:

Chairman Brackett adjourned the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee at 2:29 p.m. **House Chairman Vander Woude** asked his committee to stay in order to conduct the business of graduating their page.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary