

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 09, 2018

TIME: Upon Adjournment from the Floor

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Gestrin, Representatives Moyle, Raybould, Shepherd, Wood, Boyle, Vander Woude, Miller, Burtenshaw, Mendive, Youngblood, Kauffman, Giddings, Blanksma, Erpelding, Rubel, Jordan

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Chairman Gibbs, Representative(s) Jordan

GUESTS: Brian Brooks, Idaho Wildlife Federation; Norman Semanko, Twin Lakes Improvement Association

Chairman Gestrin called the meeting to order at 12:09pm.

RS 26104: **Rep. Moyle**, District 14, stated this proposed legislation is a rewrite of **RS 25981**. The Department of Fish and Game had some concerns regarding the definition of wildlife, so that has been corrected. Additionally, this legislation will authorize injured wildlife to be dispatched by other individuals who arrive at the scene in the event the driver of the vehicle is unable to do so.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to introduce **RS 26104**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 26129: **Norm Semanko**, Twin Lakes Improvement Association, stated this proposed legislation would establish a removal and replacement process for flood control district commissioners. The current statute addresses the flood control district commissioner appointments by the Director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources, but does not provide a mechanism for removal or replacement if needed.

In response to questions regarding the types of reasons for removal, **Mr. Semanko** stated since the Director can appoint a commissioner, he should have the purview to remove a commissioner after he conducts an investigation and determines there is cause to do so.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to introduce **RS 26129**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Burtenshaw** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 26102: **Seth Grigg**, Idaho Association of Counties, stated this Joint Memorial requests Congress to enact federal legislation to require those who sell or donate land to the federal government for conservation purposes to pay a fee in lieu of taxes to the county. He stated Idaho has a lot of public lands and those lands are exempt from paying property taxes. With more private landowners selling farm and ranch lands to the federal government, counties continue to lose tax revenue as well as job opportunities when farms and ranches cease operations.

In response to several concerns, **Mr. Grigg** stated this Joint Memorial is making the request to Congress to come up with a mechanism to offset the loss of tax revenue in the counties when private land is sold to the federal government. He stated the preferred method would be to have landowners grant an easement to the federal government rather than sell the land because then property taxes will still be paid, but that doesn't always happen. He further stated, even with PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) payments from the federal government, counties with low populations are penalized due to the formula used to determine payments.

Several committee members expressed concern regarding the concept that includes an annual fee in lieu of taxes in perpetuity from individuals who sold land and no longer own that land, and, whether or not that is even legal. **Mr. Grigg** stated if Congress were to choose that as an option, they would support it.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood** made a motion to correct the SOP where it states Concurrent Resolution rather than Joint Memorial and to introduce **RS 26102. Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Erpelding and Rubel** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:23pm.

Representative Gestrin
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary