

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 23, 2012

**TIME:** 8:45 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Crane, Representative(s) Stevenson, Black, Anderson, Andrus, Bilbao, Luker, Palmer, Simpson, Guthrie, Henderson, McGeachin, Sims, Batt, Smith(30), King, Higgins, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

**Rep. Higgins** moved to approve the minutes of January 18 and 19, 2012. **Motion carried on voice vote.**

**Chairman Loertscher** explained to those wishing to testify on **H 404** that those who were at the committee meeting on Friday would go first. The testimony Friday on **H 380** will be included in the record and will pertain equally to **H 404**.

**H 404:**

**Geoff Burns**, representing self; **Gene Bray**, representing self; **Rachael Raue**, representing self; **Mary Reali**, representing self; **Angel Garity**, Occupy Boise; **Jon Howard**, representing self; **Marlenee Diaz**, representing self; **Bob Blurton**, representing self; **Anne Hausrath**, representing self; **Stan Hoobing**, representing self; **Spencer Zachel**, representing self; **Louis D. Scruggs**, representing self; **Dean Gunderson**, representing self; **Brian Ertz**, representing self; **Ed Walters**, representing self; **Cynthia Sage Tiferet**, representing self; **Sage Premoe**, representing self; **Mike Dooley**, Occupy Boise; **Keesha Renna**, representing Occupy Boise; testified in **opposition to H 404**. Points of opposition included: the purpose of the "tent city" is to serve as a symbol of hurt, frustration and despair about the economic system in this great land. Occupy Boise provides a venue for communication to occur because the people's voice has been diminished in government. Corporate interests are represented to the detriment of the people. Occupy Boise seeks to build community among the 99% to address the problems caused by the greed and corruption of the 1% and has a right and responsibility to make their voices heard and to assemble in a peaceable manner. The Occupy Boise vigil site is not a recreational activity; it is a political act, one of protected free speech and peaceable assembly which operates under a 42-page Operational Plan for the site. Occupy Boise is going to stay as long as it takes.

**M. Alex Neiwirth**, representing Idaho Association of Government Employees/NAGE/SEIU; testified in **opposition to H 404**. Mr. Neiwirth's proposed corrective actions include filing a multi-state collective class action lawsuit to hold accountable prime perpetrators of the housing market collapse and another is a formal system of seeking informed input on critical questions of statewide importance.

**John C. Sparks**, representing self; deferred his time to testify to **Bryan Walker**, representing self/Occupy Boise; who testified in **opposition to H 404**. Mr. Walker testified that he is a practicing Idaho attorney. When Occupy Boise decided to found their vigil on the grounds of the Old Ada County Courthouse, they first

contacted and met with State officials to discuss matters of mutual concern. Mr. Walker and others met with State officials, representatives of the Governor's office and the Idaho State Police. Mr. Walker further testified that given their history of communication and collaboration with public officials, it seems strange that the legislation can be categorized as an emergency.

**Fairy Hitchcock**, representing Hitchcock Family Advocates, testified in **favor of H 404**. Ms. Hitchcock stated she is a lone voice. The masses are not being represented in this committee. The things that are on the lawn are an embarrassment to her. The encampment is not the way to do this.

**Chairman Loertscher** advised the committee they will continue the hearing tomorrow with testimony on **H 404** from **Teresa Luna** of the Department of Administration, a representative from the Attorney General's office, and **Rep. Bedke**.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business before the committee; the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Lissa Cochran  
Secretary