

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 28, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW05
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Barrett, Vice Chairman Marriott, Representative(s) Collins, Bayer, Chadderdon, Barbieri, Luker, Perry, Sims, Higgins, Buckner-Webb
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Buckner-Webb
- GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes 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.
- Representative Barrett** called the meeting to order at 2:28 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Representative Perry** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 560:** Testimony continued from the meeting of February 24, 2012, on **H 560**, which amends Section 50-2904, Idaho Code, to remove language referring to urban renewal plans and repeals the authority to create urban renewal districts.
- Testimony was heard from **Ron Harriman** and **Rachel Gilbert**, Tax Accountability Committee; **Wayne Hoffman**, Idaho Freedom Foundation; **Paul Alldredge** and **Don Brandt**, private citizens, who testified **in support** of **H 560**. Those in support of **H 560** felt the legislation would curtail increased taxes and unabated development. **Karen Sander**, Downtown Boise Association; **Jeff Huber**, White-Leasure Development Company; **Scott Schoenherr**, Downtown Boise Association; **Scott Turlington**, Meridian Development Corporation; **John Watts**, Idaho Chamber Alliance; **Russ Westerberg**, Capital City Development Corporation; and **Jayson Ronk**, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, testified **in opposition** to **H 560**, arguing that urban renewal agencies are the one tool that can revitalize core areas, thereby attracting new businesses and creating economic vitality. A question was also raised about a possible problem with language in the legislation.
- A lengthy question-and-answer period ensued on development abuses, tax debt, business retention, and infrastructure development.
- Representative Schaefer** expressed appreciation to the testifiers for their input on **H 560** and summarized the salient points in the legislation, after which he asked for unanimous consent to **HOLD H 560** in committee until a time certain.
- MOTION:** **Representative Sims** made a motion to **HOLD H 560** in committee subject to call of the Chair.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Representative Luker** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 560** in committee.
- ROLL CALL VOTE:** A roll call vote was requested. **The substitute motion carried by a vote of 5 AYE to 4 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Marriott, Collins, Luker, Perry, and Higgins. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Bayer, Chadderdon, Sims, and Barrett. Representative Barbieri was absent/excused.**

H 580: **Representative Roberts** presented **H 580**, which specifies that an urban renewal agency may issue bonds required to finance a project upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified electors voting in an election held for such purpose. Representative Roberts discussed the specific changes to the Urban Renewal Law, which he said would more closely follow the Idaho Constitution.

Testimony was heard from **Russ Hendricks**, Idaho Farm Bureau, and **Paul Aldredge**, private citizen, who testified **in support** of **H 580**, the primary argument being that the legislation would more closely represent the intentions in the Idaho Constitution. **Melinda Anderson**, Twin Falls Redevelopment Association, testified **in opposition** to **H 580**. Ms. Anderson said the legislation would limit the ability of urban renewal agencies to respond quickly to development opportunities.

A question-and-answer period ensued concerning revenue allocation in tax increments, county taxpayers' obligation in certain jurisdictions, and liability issues. **Attorney Ryan Armbruster** answered questions pertaining to judicial confirmation and other legal issues.

MOTION: **Representative Collins** made a motion to **HOLD H 580** in committee for time certain, subject to call of the Chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Representative Barrett
Chair

Jeanne Clayton
Secretary