

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, March 08, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Raybould, Vice Chairman Harwood (DeVries), Representative(s) Anderson, Eskridge, Hartgen, Simpson, Schaefer, Vander Woude, Block (Block), DeMordaunt, Gibbs, Nielsen, Thompson, Smith(30), Jaquet, Cronin
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Block, Schaefer, Thompson, Jaquet
- GUESTS:** Brenda Tominaga, Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association; Benjamin Davenport, Risch Pisca
- Chairman Raybould** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Smith** (30) made a motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2012. **Motion passed by voice vote.**
- SJM 105:** **Rep. Anderson** presented **SJM 105**. He said the joint memorial would call on Congress to reclaim its Constitutional role over the management of species and public lands. It asks Congress to reexamine, reform and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act, the Equal Access to Justice Act, and any other federal law that disrespects the role of states and local governments in land management decisions. He explained that costly and frivolous lawsuits force federal agencies to vastly expand the number of protected species and habitats, and results in taxpayer burden. He stated that future proposals include: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife considering dramatic new regulatory constraints on the enjoyment of man-made water bodies such as Lake Lowell and Lake Walcott, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife considering new regulations and constraints on 65,000 acres in Boundary and Bonner Counties which are currently school endowment lands. He also noted that federal authorization for the ESA expired in 1992.
- Rep. Anderson** asked the committee to take notice of the list of co-sponsors for **SJM 105**. He said there were many who believed that the continued over-reach by the courts in their interpretation of the aforementioned Acts threatens the economic livelihood of ranchers across the State of Idaho and has the potential to cause immeasurable financial harm to the economy of the entire state.
- Rep. Simpson** invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest but that he would be voting on the legislation.
- In response to a question regarding the positive role of the ESA in the protection of wildlife species, **Rep. Anderson** stated that the legislation was not to rescind the Acts, but to change the executive order to a more concrete, congressional statute which should limit the powers of the court.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Eskridge** made a motion to send **SJM 105** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Cronin** asked to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Anderson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Representative Raybould
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary