

MINUTES  
**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 28, 2012  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room E403  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood(35), Representative(s) Moyle, Bedke, Roberts, Rusche, Higgins, Cronin  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau

**Chairman Wood (35)** called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Higgins** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cronin** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**RS21567:** **Rep. Hart** stated the proposed legislation will allow a transaction between an informed end consumer directly from a farmer, rancher, or roadside stand. The proposed legislation will allow our citizens to choose whom they do business with and will impact the relationship between the consumer and the producer of the product.

In response to questions raised by the committee regarding exemptions from inspection or certification, **Rep. Hart** stated exemptions from licensure or certification are listed in the proposed legislation section 22-1303. Rep. Hart went on to state that in cases of an outbreak of food poisoning the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare would investigate. The proposed legislation would not exempt producers from brand inspection. Rep. Hart went on to state the proposed legislation would allow the Idaho Potato Commission to require specific license or certification to prevent misrepresentation of Idaho potatoes.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Moyle** made a motion to introduce **RS 21567**. **Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**RS21563:** **Rep. Cronin** stated the proposed legislation would create the Idaho Office of Utility Consumer Advocate similar to those found in forty-three other states. The role of the Idaho Office of Utility Consumer Advocate would ensure all utility ratepayers have fair and adequate representation. The Idaho Public Utility Commission does not have statutory authority to advocate for consumers. The proposed legislation would provide a hybrid model with a director appointed by the Idaho Attorney General and a committee ensuring representation from various stakeholders. There are provisions within the proposed legislation that establish meeting requirements and the size of the committee.

In response to questions raised by the committee, **Rep. Cronin** stated the appointment by the Idaho Attorney General mirrors the models of other states as the advocate would fit within purview of the office.

In response to questions raised by the committee it was indicated there should be further clarification of the definition of "small farm" in the proposed legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS21563**. **Motion carried by a voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

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Representative Wood(35)  
Chair

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Brenda Walters  
Secretary