

MINUTES
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 31, 2013
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW53
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Brackett, Tippetts, Rice, Patrick, Durst and Buckner-Webb
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Nonini
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Bair** called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.
- RS 21857** **Chairman Bair** introduced **Patrick Kole**, Vice President, Legal and Government Affairs, Idaho Potato Commission, who introduced **RS 21857**. As stated in the Statement of Purpose: "This legislation responds to a trademark application filed in the nation of Turkey attempting to register the name of Idaho, for agricultural products not from Idaho. It provides legislative findings of fact and policy supporting the position that only agriculture products originating in Idaho should be labeled with the name Idaho, notes the long-standing relationship between Idaho and Turkey and urges the office in charge of trademark applications in Turkey, the Turkish Patent Institute, to reject this application. It also urges the Governor of Idaho to express the same opposition to this trademark application".
- Mr. Kole was asked if there would be international ramifications arising from this legislation; if there has been any contact with federal agencies or the government of Turkey; what recourse is there if this trademark patent is granted and why hasn't the state trademarked in such a way as to prevent such attempts? **Mr. Kole** stated that at this stage, there has been no contact with the federal agencies. If this application were from a government entity it would be a different matter, but since it is from a private entity, it would be inappropriate to contact the government of Turkey, as the determination of whether to grant this application will be made by them.
- The importance of correctly following the due process requirements to oppose this application is critical. Council has been retained in Turkey, and has reached out to the company to no avail. Additional support from an organization called Origin, a regional geographical indications network, will file documents that state that the term "Idaho" should come from the region in which it originates. If the trademark were to be granted, Turkish court options would be exhausted. The word "Idaho" is currently registered in 17 countries, but there must be proof of actual use in that country in order to trademark it there. No use was found in Turkey, which led to this issue.
- MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to print **RS 21857**. **Senator Rice** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- S 1024** **Chairman Bair** introduced **Stan Boyd** of the Idaho Wool Growers Association, who presented **Senate bill 1024**, that would allow the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board (Board) to amend Idaho Code § 25-127: revisions to the provisions relating to the membership requirements, and Idaho Code § 25-131: adding a new provision reserving the right of the state of Idaho to audit the funds of the Board at any time. **Mr. Boyd** stood for questions.
- MOTION:** **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1024** to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Bair** introduced **Julie Pipal**, Food Resource Manager of The Idaho Foodbank. **Ms. Pipal** thanked the committee for the opportunity to present and thanked representatives of the agricultural community who attended. She next introduced **Karen Vauk**, President and CEO of the Idaho Foodbank, who spoke about hunger issues many people are facing today and how Idaho Foodbank is helping.

- In 2012, 267,620 Idahoans are food insecure (no reliable food source on a consistent basis, not only at the poverty level and not necessarily everyday)
- 96,660 were children under the age of 18
- 23,008 were children under the age of 5
- There are facilities in Boise, Pocatello and Lewiston that serve as hubs to 218 non-profit partners in 39 counties
- The Foodbank directly distributes food through several programs; Mobile Pantry, Backpack Program, Picnic in the Park, and School Pantry
- Cooking classes are taught to low-income families through the Cooking Matters Program

Ms. Vauk stated that the organization works closely with the Health and Welfare Department, and often times helps fill the gap when food stamps run out at the end of the month. She stated that this program is available to all people in need and the only requirement of eligibility is filling out a statement of need.

Ms. Pipal lauded the participation and support of the agricultural community. Less than 2 percent of revenue comes from government funding. The collaboration and the generous gifts of donors help to make the Foodbank programs a success, not only by providing nutritious food, but also by educating people in making better nutritional choices. Participants include:

- Idaho beef industry's "Beef Counts" program has raised \$200,000, and provided 404,000 three-ounce servings of beef since its inception in 2010

Mr. Wyatt Prescott, Executive Vice President at Idaho Cattle Association, spoke briefly about this program: its inception, and their participation in this most important issue facing Idaho.

- In 2011, the Idaho-Eastern Oregon Onion Committee donated more than 108,000 pounds of onions

Mr. John Watson, founding member of the Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association, spoke about the collaboration of the Idaho-Eastern Oregon shippers and how working together helped provide the much-loved onions to the Foodbank.

- Idaho Pork Producers have donated animals and \$400 and Gem Meat Packing and Action Quality Printers helped in the distribution of more than 873 pounds of fresh pork
- Prison Farm Project at the South Idaho Correctional Institution produced more than 184,000 pounds of green beans and potatoes.
- The Berry Ranch donated fruit and vegetables
- The bean industry supplied more than six truckloads of Idaho-grown beans

Ms. Pipal read a letter from Mr. Mark Klampien, President of the Idaho Growers Association, who is the liaison to the potato industry. He was not able to attend the meeting, but wanted to thank the Idaho Foodbank for their great work and that their association is proud to support them.

Ms. Pipal thanked the committee and closed by stating that the vision of the Idaho Foodbank is for a "Hunger-Free" Idaho.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

Senator Bair
Chairman

Denise McNeil
Secretary