

MINUTES  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 14, 2013

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Johnson, Senators Keough, Winder, Rice, Nonini, Hagedorn, Bock and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:**

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Brackett** called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll. With a quorum present, **Chairman Brackett** welcomed John Williams of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to the Committee and asked him to present **H 216**.

**H 216** **Mr. Williams** began by presenting historical facts about BPA being a federal marketing agency of electricity throughout the Northwest. It is a nonprofit organization that pays debt service to the United States Treasury. BPA owns seventy-five percent of the electricity transmission lines in the Northwest which provides electricity to communities throughout the region. There are twenty-five public utility districts in Idaho that use BPA power. H 511, from the 2012 legislative session, established standards for lighting and marking of guyed towers above fifty feet in height. That bill exempted towers owned by utilities, however, BPA is not considered a transmission utility under Idaho Code. **H 216** includes BPA specifically as being exempt under last year's legislation. **Mr. Williams** stood for questions.

**Senator Bock** wanted to know if BPA is governed by federal law that would exempt it from some state laws. **Mr. Williams** said that BPA is regulated through federal statutes, but this issue falls under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. **Senator Bock** suggested FAA guidelines may preclude Idaho from regulating guyed towers. **Mr. Williams** said that BPA is seeking the same exemption Idaho Power Company has under last year's legislation.

**Senator Rice** asked if BPA owned the towers they use in Idaho or if they rent them from another owner. **Mr. Williams** said that both occur; they utilize other electric utilities' facilities, but they also manage facilities that wheels electric power along transmission lines. There were no further questions for **Mr. Williams**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Keough** moved that **H 216** be sent to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**. **Senator Keough** will carry the bill on the Senate floor.

**MINUTES:** **Chairman Brackett** called for a motion on the minutes of the February 7 meeting. **Vice Chairman Johnson** moved that the minutes of the February 7 meeting be approved. **Senator Bock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.

**Chairman Brackett** called for a motion on the minutes of the February 11 meeting. **Senator Keough** moved that the minutes of the February 11 meeting be approved. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

**Chairman Brackett** asked the Committee for unanimous consent to send **RS 22170C1** to the Senate State Affairs Committee for printing. He explained that the legislation would benefit the residents of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. There was no objection.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

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Senator Brackett  
Chairman

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Gaye Bennett  
Secretary