

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 28, 2014
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Kelly Olson, Idaho Barley Commission; Bill Barton DVM, ISDA; Mackenzie Herrick, Veritas Advisors; Elizabeth Criner, NW FPA/FWAA; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca; Eli Brown, Veritas Advisors LLP; Rick Keller, Idaho Farm Bureau; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Stan Boyd, IEBA; John Jameson, IEBA

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Andrus welcomed the FFA guests and invited the FFA Advisors to introduce and recognize their individual Chapters.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, January 8, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22655C1: **Stan Boyd**, Idaho Elk Breeders Association, presented **RS 22655C1**, Domestic Cervidae Inspection. Mr. Boyd stated the Elk Breeders Program requires an extensive amount of background work and testing. He said it is very expensive to run the program at the Idaho Department of Agriculture. He said the department has authority to inspect at any time and this proposed legislation raises fees to \$10 a head and puts in place a \$10 a head transfer fee on imports or exports.

Mr. Boyd answered questions from the Committee regarding the dollar amount of the fee and how it was established and the need for an increase in the future.

MOTION: **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to introduce **RS22655C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS22575: **Rep. Erpelding** presented **RS 22575**, Noxious/Invasive Weed Awareness Week. He said the objective of this proposed legislation is to create a permanent weed awareness week for the purposes of protecting our public and private lands for ranching, agriculture and recreation.

Rep. Batt invoked Rule of 38, stating a possible conflict.

MOTION: **Rep. Agidius** made a motion to introduce **RS 22575**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Brent Olmstead, Idaho Business Coalition for Immigration Reform, presented an Immigration Reform overview. Mr. Olmstead explained the coalition was formed in 2008. He stated the coalition is a broad based group that works with multiple industry segments and multiple national immigration groups. He explained immigrants come to the United States for higher wages and average earnings were seven times higher. He explained there are twenty different guest programs for immigrants, and Idaho uses the H-2A program for seasonal agricultural worker. Mr. Olmstead outlined the benefits and problems of H-2A. He explained the E-Verify process for employers hiring a new employee. He stated E-Verify is free and provides for appeals. In the appeal process, the employee remains employed.

The E-Verify cannot be used as a pre-employment screening tool and does not protect against identity theft.

In response to a question regarding the difference between the pathways to legalization and citizenship, **Mr. Olmstead** said a work permit does not necessarily move the worker forward to citizenship, some workers may not want citizenship, they only want to earn money and go back home.

Kelly Olson, Administrator, Idaho Barley Commission, presented the Idaho Barley Commission annual report to the Committee. Ms. Olson stated that 91 percent of barley is produced in southern/eastern Idaho, and barley prices were trending lower. She discussed some of the challenges and opportunities for the Commission. She stated there was a decline in public research funding, there was a rise in disease threat, and domestic beer sales fell 1.6 percent in 2013 due to the economy. Ms. Olson stated with rising health risks, there is a demand for healthier foods and outlined the benefits of barley.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Angela Sandoval
Secretary