

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 06, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Wood(35), Wills, Bateman, Henderson, Denney, Gestrin, Gibbs, Hixon, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Ringo (Jordan), King, Gannon

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jim Wilson, Clancy Johnston, Justin Nesbitt, Hunter Moize, Bailey Rill, Zachary Asher, Kristin Nesbitt, Erin Root, Christina Schram, Linda Asher, Dan Allers, Beth Carter, Maurine Johnson, Linda Webb, Julie Oberle, Friends of 4-H; Skip Smyser, ITA; Doug Stowers, Gem State Oil Recovery; Don Williams, ISTC; Dave Carlson, AAA, Idaho; Jason Kreizenbeck, Lobby Idaho; Julie Pipal, Idaho Trucking; Danyelle Harbauer, Idaho Trucking; Amy Luft, COMPASS; Christine Fisher, ITD DMV; Ron Carpenter, Self

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

Report from Wood(35) Subcommittee on the Pending Rules and amendments as presented in the letter dated February 6, 2014, to the full committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood (35)** made a motion to approve the Rules Subcommittee report of the Pending Rules including amendments as reported. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22779: **Skip Smyser**, Idaho Trucking, Lobby Idaho, presented **RS 22779** and stated at the request of his client the Idaho Trucking Association, the legislation before the committee is to bring funding to the much needed Idaho transportation system. He stated this legislation would raise the motor fuel tax \$.02 per year for three years, increasing the motor fuel tax \$.06 per gallon by the third year. Mr. Smyser indicated that the economy is dependent on the trucking industry. Commodities are imported and exported by trucks; trucks need good roads and bridges to transport the goods to keep the cost of trucking down. He gave an example of a bridge with weight restrictions requiring the transporter to divide the load into two trucks instead of one large truck. Mr. Smyser stated that GARVEE funding has been a good tool for the highway system; however, bond indebtedness is a hard sell and takes away much needed revenue from the road program during the repayment period of the bonds. He said the trucking industry supports maintaining a good transportation system; therefore, the industry supports a fuel tax increase.

MOTION: **Rep. Packer** made a motion to introduce **RS 22779**. **Rep. Kauffman** invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest but that he would be voting on the legislation. **Rep. Youngblood** invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest but that he would be voting on the legislation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wood(35)** requested that she be recorded as voting **NAY**.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2014, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 403: **Rep. Agidius** announced that there are supporters in the audience from **Friends of 4-H**, and she is yielding to their testimonies for **H 403** to the Committee and she will stand for questions after each guest has provided testimony. The Friends of 4-H presented many accounts of the achievements of the participating youth in 4-H Programs throughout the State of Idaho. The students of "Know Your Government" (KYG) appreciated the opportunities the 4-H KYG program has provided. The guest speakers spoke to many examples of benefits the speciality license plate will provide in keeping the programs available for future generations. The Friends of 4-H explained how the speciality license plate will not only bring funding, but will bring awareness of 4-H programs to the general public. In closing, Rep. Agidius explained how this is a great tool for Idahoans in helping promote 4-H programs.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **H 403** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Presentation "Link Between Infrastructure and Development" **Chandler Duncan** from EDR Group, Boston. Mr. Duncan stated his focus is on private sector and the role the transportation system plays. Trade industries, whether importing or exporting bring money into Idaho. Goods flow in and out of the Idaho and the industries rely on a good highway system to transport the merchandise. He stated with the increased fuel efficiency of vehicles, which reduces the amount of fuel purchased, affect the State's transportation system funding. He stated fuel taxes are not the most efficient way to get money. Mr. Duncan brought up the significance of "through traffic" which is imposing cost onto Idaho and suggested there may be opportunities with MAP 21 law, in working with adjacent states. In conclusion, he said there are new opportunities for market-based solutions and collaboration between states.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Linda Mott
Secretary