

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Pedestrian Bicycle Alliance; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

Chairman Palmer introduced the committee's new Page, **Jaylee Miyake** of Caldwell.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6 and February 10, 2014, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Ringo** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wood(35) Rules Subcommittee dated February 6, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Dwight Little of Fremont County, Idaho, brought to the Committee his real life experience of a public bridge failing. He told the story of a public road that traverses his farmland with a bridge. He mentioned he is a fourth generation Idahoan. Mr. Little recalls this bridge when it was a wooden bridge, and as the County population grew, the bridge was upgraded to a concert two-way bridge. This bridge is very important to the local farmers in the area. Last summer a state inspector declared the bridge to be unsafe for passage. A barricade was placed on one side of bridge allowing for cars and pickup trucks to cross over the canal. No heavy equipment or loaded trucks could cross, he said. This means he had to go around his land on a three mile detour. He stated during the short harvest period the detour caused an economic hardship on the local farmers. When he went to the County for help, Mr. Little stated the County staff told him they have over 100 bridges to maintain and not enough funding. He acknowledged this as part of a larger problem across the State. Mr. Little concluded with how important public roads and bridges are to a rural community.

H 493: **Rep. Shepherd** provided a summary of **H 493**. He said this bill enables tolerance in overweight vehicles to all industries. Rep. Shepherd explained that this gives an allowance for mud, snow, and ice buildup on all trucks. He gave an account of loading a truck and the loader operator overfilled the bed. This change would provide a safety-net for the accidental overage. He also stated this change does not affect an Federal funding requirements.

MOTION: **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to send **H 493** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Linda Mott
Secretary