

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2014
TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives Bolz, McMillan, Batt, Bell, Agidius, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, Stevenson, VanOrden, Pence, Erpelding
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle
GUESTS: Pat Barclay, ICIE; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Sean Ellis, Capital Press

Chairman Andrus called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

Chairman Andrus and the Committee thanked the Page, **Julie Monaghan**, for her work for the Committee during the second half of this session.

Chairman Andrus recognized a former Chairman of the Agricultural Affairs Committee in attendance, **Doug Jones** and encouraged the Committee to talk to him after the meeting.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, March 4, and March 10, 2014 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

John Hewitt, Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), presented on the Benefits of Biotechnology from Field to Fork. He said GMA is a national trade association representing companies in the food, beverage and consumer products industry. He said the use of genetically modified (GM) ingredients is safe for people and our planet. GM technology has facilitated an agricultural revolution in the United States that has produced a safe, abundant, and cost-effective food supply for over 20 years. Every credible study as well as numerous U.S. and global food safety agencies, such as, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, American Medical Association, and World Health Organization, have found that genetically modified food ingredients are safe and there are no negative health effects associated with their use. He said more than 80% of the food we eat in the U.S. contain ingredients that have been genetically modified and corn, soy and sugar beets are the most common. He said ingredients grown using GM technology require fewer pesticides, less water and keep production costs down while increasing crop yields and will help us produce the 70% more food we will need by 2050 to feed an expected global population of 9 billion. He said scientific base and education decisions are significant in GM in proving that it is safe to use and consume. He noted the agencies who are responsible for the oversight of the government regulations concerning GM foods that come onto the market place as being the USDA, FDA, and EPA. He said that FDA itself is responsible for regulating up to 80% of the food supply and with respect to genetically modified, their evaluation focuses on its characteristics and how it reacts in our bodies rather than the method used to develop it.

Trent Clark, Monsanto, said they spoke to farmer's about their needs and took that information back to their researchers who can begin work on genetics and development. He said their researchers work on the genetics and how it helps yields, the use of less water and drought tolerance. He said it is significant to move these processes through the legislative process.

MOTION: **Rep. Erpelding** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Angela Sandoval
Secretary