

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 02, 2015

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Acting Chairman Lakey, Senators Davis, Hill, Winder, Johnson(Lodge), Stennett and Werk

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Chairman McKenzie and Senator Siddoway

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

**CONVENED:** **Acting Chairman Lakey** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:03 a.m.

**VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Senator Winder** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of John Chatburn as Administrator of the Office of Energy Resources to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Werk** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Chairman McKenzie will sponsor Mr. Chatburn on the Senate floor.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** The reappointment of Sheila Olsen to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (phone confirmation hearing).

**Acting Chairman Lakey** welcomed Ms. Olsen and asked her to introduce herself and discuss her application. **Ms. Olsen** stated that she has enjoyed being on the Human Rights Commission (Commission). It has been the most private entity she has ever served on because everything is confidential. She said that she is very impressed with how seriously the pros and cons of each case are reviewed and with the caliber of investigation the Attorney General's office (AG) provides. Members of the Commission do not have preconceived biases although each member brings their informed opinions to the table. Cases that come before the Commission are taken very seriously. **Ms. Olsen** is honored to serve on the Commission.

**Senator Hill** asked how many Commission members are present when a hearing is held. **Ms. Olsen** answered that they have full board meetings, most meetings are by phone and they must have a quorum. **Senator Hill** asked if the number of cases reviewed in a year and their resolutions,are public information. **Ms. Olsen** responded that the staff members track the number of cases heard by the Commission.

**Acting Chairman Lakey** thanked Ms. Olsen for her comments and her service.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** The reappointment of Ruthie Johnson to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (phone confirmation hearing).

**Acting Chairman Lakey** stated his appreciation to Ms. Johnson for appearing before the Committee. He asked her to introduce herself and to describe her activities on the Commission.

**Ms. Johnson** stated that she has enjoyed serving on the Commission. The Commission receives about 20-40 cases a month. She diligently reviews every case she is assigned in order to understand both sides of the issue. The AG investigates and makes a recommendation. The Commission reviews the case and can approve or reject the recommendation. **Ms. Johnson** said it is always very interesting and challenging; her life experiences have been an asset when looking at the variety of issues she encounters.

**Acting Chairman Lakey** asked Ms. Johnson to describe her experience in working with other members of the Commission. **Ms. Johnson** stated that they work well together. They have all tried to do a proper job and they all participate in case discussions. Even though they may disagree, it has never been antagonistic.

**Acting Chairman Lakey** thanked Ms. Johnson for participating in this confirmation hearing. He welcomed Katharine Gerrity to present the codifier corrections.

**RS 23311**

**Katharine Gerrity**, Research and Legislation, presented **RS 23311**. This RS makes various corrections and technical corrections to the Idaho Code.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Davis moved** to send **RS 23311** to print. **Senator Werk** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business, **Acting Chairman Lakey** adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

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Senator McKenzie  
Chair

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Twyla Melton  
Secretary