

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2015

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representatives McMillan, Batt, Bell, Dayley, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby, Troy, Pence, Erpelding

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jodie Ellis, Board of Veterinary Medicine; Brad Hunt, OARC; Doug Jones, Growers for Biotechnology; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Mitch Royer, Food Producers of Idaho.

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

DOCKET NO. 02-0421-1401: **Chairman Andrus** requested a roll call vote on the motion to reject **Docket No. 02-0421-1401**, made by **Rep. Pence** on February 4, 2014. **Motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 8 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Batt, Bell, Dayley, Troy, Pence, Erpelding. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Andrus, Boyle, McMillan, Miller, Romrell, VanOrden, Burtenshaw, Kerby.**

DOCKET NO. 46-0101-1401: **Jodie Ellis**, Executive Director, Idaho Board of Veterinary Medicine, addressed the committee in response for clarification of the rule pertaining to the certification process of veterinary technicians. Ms. Ellis stated the training for a veterinary technician is done in an educational program. Some of the programs in states similar to California's would not meet the new certification requirements under this rule. Under new ruling, technicians would need to attend a program that is certified by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association). In response to committee questions, Ms. Ellis stated it is important national standards are met, similar to standard requirements for other medical occupations.

Rep. Bell stated as there was no motion, the rule stands as recommended by the Subcommittee.

Mark Samson, USDA Farm Service Agency, stated the USDA Farm Service is located in 29 counties throughout the State of Idaho. Cash receipts were up for the fourth straight year. Farm net income increased by 46% over last year. He stated the goal of the Agriculture Act of 2014 was to allow men and women who feed millions around the world to invest confidently in the future. The changes in the 2014 Farm Bill improve the "safety net" for veteran and beginning farmers and ranchers. He said the farm loans consistently achieve goals set by the national office in that there is no backlogs of approval applications, delinquency on direct loans is at 1.8%, the lowest since 1991 and delinquency on guaranteed loans is at .79%, the lowest since 1991. The four types of farm loans are guaranteed, direct, micro and farm storage facilities. The USDA/FSA delivered \$372 million in federal program benefits to Idaho farmers and ranchers in FY 2014. In response to committee questions regarding the possibility of this being the last Farm Bill to pass as the US Congress becomes more urbanized, Mr. Samson stated the loss of the food stamp program from the farm bill would be devastating and a great loss of revenue.

Jeff Mitchell, Farm Program Chief, answered committee question concerning the twenty-one counties and 17,000 acres locked into restore irrigated land to non farm use for a period of ten to fifteen years. The purpose is to regain water for the aquifer rather than using it for production agriculture.

RS 23450: **Rep. Kauffman** stated this proposed legislation amends the Idaho Pure Seed Act by adding the definition of three activities relating to agricultural seeds - cultivating, producing and processing - are among the activities that are regulated by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The proposal is to have regulation remain with the State Department of Agriculture rather than local counties.

Doug Jones, Executive Director Biotechnology, stated in response to committee question concerning the definitions in the proposed bill. He stated it was drafted by a local attorney and the definitions are generally accepted across the industry.

Rep. Batt invoked rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest.

MOTION: **Rep. Bell** made a motion to introduce **RS 23450. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Batt, Rep. Erpelding and **Rep. Burtenshaw**, requested it show in the record, their objection to the procedure of the roll call vote on **Docket No. 02-0421-1401.**

Rep. Burtenshaw invoked rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest on **Docket No. 02-0421-1401.**

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Burtenshaw** made a unanimous consent request to change his vote on **Docket No. 02-0421-1401.** There being no objection, the request was granted.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary