

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2015
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Anderst, Representatives Raybould, Hartgen, Vander Woude, Nielsen, Anderson, Mendive, Trujillo, Beyeler, Chaney, Nate, Scott, Smith, Rusche, Jordan, Rubel
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Vander Woude, Nielsen, Rusche, Jordan
GUESTS: Trent Clark, Monsanto; Ken Miller, Snake River Alliance; Megan Hill, Jeff Sayer, Commerce; John Williams, BPA; Pat Barclay, Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment

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

MOTION: **Rep. Beyeler** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Trent Clark, Public Affairs Director on behalf of Monsanto presented Biotechnology in Agriculture to the committee. Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are the use of new technology transforming the traditional form of plant breeding to obtain a desired gene or trait of a plant. Genetic engineering enables the introduction into a plant, the specific gene or characteristic of interest, without introducing genes responsible for unwanted characteristics which has occurred previously with traditional breeding.

Mr. Clark explained that weed and pest control traits were introduced early instead of positive traits like nutritious value which could have changed how GMOs are seen today. The DNA trait used for pest control is used as an organic compost. Mr. Clark said super weeds are products of farmers using the same roundup product year after year. Humans share DNA with multiple other organisms, but still have thousands of unique genes only humans possess. DNA has a natural redundant repair process and our DNA breaks tens of thousands of times everyday. Labeling in the U.S. is the private property of the seller of the product. Labels are only required if there are public health and safety concerns.

Jeff Sayer, Chairman, Leadership In Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission presented the Governor's Foresight and an update to the committee. He stated LINE is the third largest employer and not only a significant state asset but a world class nuclear asset with great technology and facilities. LINE has worked on a ten year, four million dollar Idaho Cleanup Project and is working to ensure funding continues. The Commission is working on various cleanup projects, from previous waste disposal, to a dramatically different style of fuel storage and management. Mr. Sayer said LINE 2.0 has many new objectives to ensure the role INL will play in Idaho's economic growth and to identify opportunities to advance Idaho's universities and the mission of the INL., also to maintain an open dialogue with the public and evaluate policy options.

Mr. Sayer said recently they have reached out and began working with the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES). They are working on an Integrated Waste Treatment Unit (IWTU) that is carefully monitored by DEQ. The Governor understands the opportunity, imposing requirements and penalties if deadlines not met.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Representative Thompson
Chair

Heidi McKay
Secretary