

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW 02

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Batt, Representatives Andrus, Luker, Crane, Palmer, Sims, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, McMillan, Bateman, Cheatham, Nielsen, Smith, Jordan, McCrostie, Wintrow

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Holtzclaw

GUESTS: The sign-in sheets will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of session. Following the end of session, the sign-in sheets will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

S 1011: Continuation of the meeting of March 11, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.

Jim Tibbs, Ada County Commissioner, Owner of Les Bois Park, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011** and stated they have invested \$10 million dollars in the park and it is owned by the County. He stated the park has created 275 jobs and last year was the first year that race purses increased in decades. He stated if historic horse racing is eliminated the park will be at a loss, jobs will be gone, and everyone in the horse racing industry will suffer.

Paul Treasure, self, Treasure Ranch, **Amber Job**, self, **Arin Chunn**, self, **Bill Hoburg**, self, **Mark Brown**, self, **Scott Giltner**, self, **Trina Fackrell**, Eastern Idaho State Fair, **Bill McNelis**, self, **Drew Hall**, horse trainer, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011**. They were of the opinion that the effects of eliminating historic horse racing would dramatically affect the horse industry in Idaho and a lot of people would lose their employment.

Ed McNelis, Idaho Horse Council, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011** and stated historical horse racing affects rural communities and breeders all over the State of Idaho. He stated Idaho has the largest ratio of horses and people per capita. He said horse racing is a huge business in the Northwest. He stated the equine industry is good for families and creates many healthy activities for youth that keep them out of trouble.

Rachel Hunter, Owner, Double Down, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011** and stated she is a business owner and employer that depends on horse racing. She stated she employs about 50 employees and they are depending on her. She stated if there is an issue with historic horse racing terminals, the issue should be brought before the Court, not the Legislature.

Julie Hart, representing Idaho Wins, presented a video of tribal games and historic horse racing games for a comparison.

John Evans, Mayor, Garden City, spoke **in support** of **S 1011** and stated the County Commissioners in Garden City had a meeting regarding the historic horse racing terminals at Les Bois Park before they were installed and there was concern over the legality of the machines. He stated the County Commissioners have discussed many options to keep Les Bois Park operational. He stated part of the 250 acres that Les Bois is on could be sold or leased, as well as, other businesses added on the property to create revenue to help with horse racing. He said the City will get creative in finding options to help Les Bois Park continue to run if the historic racing terminals are discontinued.

ADJOURN: Due to time constraints, **S 1011** will be carried over to the meeting of March 12, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary