

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 12, 2015

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. VanOrden

GUESTS: Rick Waitley, Food Producers; Jim Lowe, Idaho Honey Industry

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

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, March 4, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1074: **Senator Lee** presented before the committee and introduced **Jim Lowe**, Idaho Honey Industry Association. He explained to the committee the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission is housed at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The commission has the responsibility for promotion, education and research on behalf of Idaho's Honey Industry. This legislation addresses a number of items including: Changing the name of the commission, structure of the commission members including appointments, districts, terms, dates of service and removal and clarification of who may vote in a referendum.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Lowe** stated there are 119,000 hives in Idaho with approximately 66 commercial beekeepers.

Rick Waitley, Executive Director, Idaho Food Producers, in response to committee questions concerning the Honey Industry in Idaho said a large percent of Idaho bees are used for pollination of California produce. He compared Idaho and Kentucky who have the same amount of bee hives whereas Kentucky has 700 beekeepers compared to Idaho's 70 beekeepers.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion to send **S 1074** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

SCR 113: **Senator Jim Rice** stated there is concern for the Rule Docket for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture relating to Rules Governing Livestock Dealers, Buying Stations and Livestock Trader Lots. He stated the five people affected by the rule should have been contacted and invited to participate in the rule making process. He asked the committee to reject the rule.

MOTION: **Rep. Burtenshaw** made a motion to send **SCR 113** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary