

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 12, 2015

**TIME:** 8:30 A.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:** None

**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 8:32 a.m.

**S 1011:** Continuation of the meeting of March 11, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

**Dale Ririe**, self, and **Grant Ipsen**, self, spoke **in support** of **S 1011** and stated the games are unconstitutional and gambling harms the public.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Ipsen** stated tribal gaming is regulated by federal law and it would be a question for the Supreme Court. He stated he has tried to challenge the legality of the slot machine type games but the court would not hear the case. He stated he believes the games of the Idaho Lottery simulate like slot machines as well.

**John Sheldon**, President, Treasure Valley Racing, **Debra Amsden**, Executive Director, Idaho Horse Council; **Dwayne Didencksen**, General Manager, Les Bois Park; **Matthew Woodington**, Lakeside Veterinarian; **Marta Loveland**, self; **Myron Amsden**, Board of Idaho Quarter Horse Council; **Jim Bernard**, Co-owner, Intermountain Racing and Entertainment, Co-owner of Sandy Downs Park; **Darren Carroway**, self; and **Harry Bettis**, self, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011**. They were of the opinion that the elimination of historic horse racing will bring the demise of the horse racing industry in Idaho and that since it was legalized it has helped the economy flourish.

**Melissa Bernard**, CEO, Intermountain Racing and Entertainment, Owner of Sandy Downs Park, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011** and stated the Legislature shouldn't be hearing the issue of the legality of the historic horse racing machines, it is the judicial branch that interprets the law and uses due process. She stated the City of Idaho Falls supports her business.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Bernard** stated she received letters from the City of Idaho Falls for licensing of the historic horse racing wagering. She stated she did not get approval from the County Commissioners because she was never told it was necessary. She said the County wanted approval from the City which is what she provided and then the Racing Commission issued the license. She stated half of her employees work on the restaurant side of the business, the other half provide services for the historic horse racing portion. She stated that without historic horse racing, her business will fail and many people will be out of work.

**Wayne Hoffman**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1011** and stated the bill was created because the tribes don't want competition. He stated due process should be occurring because liberty and property can be taken away with this bill. He stated the issue should be decided on by the courts not the Legislature.

In response to committee questions, **Ardie Moyes**, Quasi-Interim Director, Idaho State Racing Commission, stated the historic horse racing machines were examined and certified by the former Director, **Frank Lamb**, before they could be used. She stated after they were certified the owners of the machines were invoiced accordingly. She stated the Racing Commission is aware of the investigation in Post Falls and have provided the detective with voluminous amounts of documentation to review.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Kasey Winder  
Secretary