

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 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:** None

GUESTS: Lloyd Knight, ISDA; Jim Martell, Canyon County Weed Control; Bryce Fowler, Fremont County Weed Control; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Gorgon Edwards, Cassia County Weed Control; Mitch Whitmill, Jefferson County Weed Control; Jeffrey Pettingill, Bonneville County Weed Control; Brian K. Wilbur, Ada County Weed Control; Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho; Rick Waitley, Idaho Weed Control Association

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

S 1073

Senator Keough explained the goal of this legislation is to provide a way for research to be done on biological control methods for noxious weeds. This legislation is the result of three years of negotiations. She said much of the language is the result of ISDA's (Idaho Department of Agriculture) input. She stated as soon as she was made aware of concerns held by the Weed Control Superintendents, efforts were made to address them. Sen. Keough said the heart of the bill is that the director would be notified in writing of the research project at least thirty (30) days prior to any collection, removal or movement of any noxious weeds.

Rick Waitley, Idaho Weed Control Association, explained they were opposed to the bill as originally written. They were invited back to help draft amendments and make some minor changes but after close review still feel they can't support the bill. The IWCA (Idaho Weed Control Association) felt rushed in making a hasty decision and for this reason asks the committee to not send **S 1073** to the floor until adequate time is given to modify the legislation.

Rep. Batt declared Rule 38 stating her husband is involved as a voting member of IWCA.

Jim Martell, Canyon County Weed Control, expressed his concerns were that some of the definitions were too broad, counties would not be able to monitor or contain escapes of the research project, and there could be unforeseen fiscal impact to the counties. In the updated amendments all of these concerns seem to have been addressed.

Bryce Fowler, Fremont County Weed Control; **Brian Wilbur**, Ada County Weed Control; **Gordon Edwards**, Cassia County Weed Control; and **Mitch Whitmill**, Jefferson County Weed Control; all stated with the changes made in the amendments, they are now supportive of the legislation.

Dennis Tanikuni Idaho Farm Bureau, expressed support for **S 1073**. He expressed to **Rep. Erpelding** and **Senator Keough** his thanks for their hard work to answer every concern. He urged the committee to pass the legislation so research can start immediately.

Jeffrey Pettingill, Bonneville County Weed Control, said Idaho's program is one of the best in the nation and is looked to by others for guidelines to follow. He encouraged the committee to eliminate any gray areas in the law. He stated he agreed with the amended changes made thus far. He suggested a look at other research done outside of the state in order to gain information on aquatic noxious weeds.

Jim Lowe, Food Producers of Idaho, spoke **in support** of the bill. He stated they have always been a strong advocate of control or eradication of noxious weeds. He said progress always comes from research we do today.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Romrell** made a motion to send **S 1073** to General Orders.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Dayley** made a substitute motion to Hold **S 1073** in committee for a time certain, March 24, 2015.
- MOTION WITHDRAWN:** **Rep. Dayley** withdrew his substitute motion to Hold **S 1073** in committee for a time certain, March 24, 2015.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Bell** made a substitute motion to Hold **S 1073** for a time certain, March 20, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary