

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2015

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Vick, Senators Cameron, Siddoway, Brackett, Heider, Nuxoll, Stennett and Lacey

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Bair** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1 p.m. and welcomed the audience and Senator Ward-Engelking, who introduced the Committee's guest.

Senator Ward-Engelking said before introducing the guest, Ilah Hickman, that she just wanted to say that Ilah epitomizes everything that Idaho wants its children to be. Ilah is tenacious and has taken her education in her hands, is following technology and science, and is reaching out to people all over the State to come on this journey with her. She is an eighth grade student in Boise and has been working to make the Idaho giant salamander Idaho's state amphibian for the past five years.

H 1 **Ms. Hickman** said that **H 1**, a bill to make the Idaho giant salamander Idaho's state amphibian, was passed last Monday in the House with a vote of 51-17. She asked that the Committee support this bill with a do pass recommendation.

Ms. Hickman then asked for permission to show the Committee a video of her encounter with the salamander and why it should be the State's amphibian. Shown in the video with Ilah are students from Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) and Dr. John Cossel, Jr.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: **Dr. Cossel** could not be at the meeting, but submitted written testimony in support of making the Idaho giant salamander the official state amphibian (see attachment 1).

TESTIMONY: **Mr. Frank Lundburg**, a self-employed wildlife and public policy consultant, testified in support of **H 1**. A full copy of his testimony is attached (see attachment 2).

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: **Ms. Shelley Barrutia**, a fourth grade teacher at White Pine Elementary, had the honor of having Ilah Hickman in her class five years ago. She wrote that it was during a class project on Idaho state symbols that Ilah was inspired to propose the Idaho giant salamander as the State's official amphibian. A copy of Ms. Barrutia's letter is attached (see attachment 3).

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: **Ms. Mitzi Hull**, a fourth grade teacher at Midway Elementary School, Menan, Idaho, wrote about the impact Ilah Hickman's bill has had on her students. Because of this, they believe that they may also be instrumental in making great things happen. A copy of Ms. Hull's letter is attached (see attachment 4).

TESTIMONY: **Ms. Rosemary DeMond** testified in support of **H 1** and spoke of the determination of Ilah to see her project to completion.

Some of the facts provided by Ms. Hickman regarding Idaho's giant salamander (*Dicamptodon Atterimus*) are:

- range: lives almost exclusively in Idaho (and just a sliver of Montana);
- habitat: crystal clear rivers, creeks, and streams, and moist, forested areas;
- metamorphose through three stages in its lifetime, and can grow to be 9-12 inches;
- has "Idaho" in its name, the skin pattern is marbly brown on an adult, and it is a shy creature;
- is an important species in Idaho's ecosystem that intrigues many; and
- of the 15 amphibians that are native to Idaho, the Idaho giant salamander is the best candidate to be the Idaho state amphibian.

Committee members complimented Ms. Hickman regarding her determination to see to it that her bill is working its way through the legislative process and to have not given up during the past years.

- MOTION:** **Senator Cameron** moved that **H 1** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Ward-Engelking will be the sponsor.
- MINUTES:** **Senator Nuxoll** moved to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2015. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RECOGNITION OF PAGE:** **Chairman Bair** said that as the Session draws down, it is the custom to honor the Committee's Page before adjourning. Sam Cahoon has been the Page for the second half of this Session. Sam is from Twin Falls and has been sponsored by Senator Heider. **Chairman Bair** presented Sam with a letter of recognition signed by the Committee members, and a gift card to the American Eagle, also from the Committee members. **Mr. Cahoon** thanked the Chairman and Committee members and said that he would be working in North Carolina this summer, then preparing for a two-year mission. He later plans to attend BYU.
- ADJOURNED:** With no further business to come before the Committee, **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Senator Bair
Chair

Juanita Budell
Secretary