

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, April 02, 2015

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Nonini, Senators Keough, Winder, Hagedorn, Vick, Den Hartog, Buckner-Webb 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 Brackett** called the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Winder** moved to approve the Minutes of March 24, 2015. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 312: **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Representative Palmer, Chairman of the House Transportation and Defense Committee, and invited him to take the podium to present **H 312**.

Representative Palmer thanked the Chairman, looked around at the Committee, and asked that **H 312**, a transportation funding bill, be moved forward. He asked the Committee to review it and then pass it along to the Senate floor. **Representative Palmer** stood for questions.

Senator Winder thanked Representative Palmer for getting this bill to the Committee. **Senator Winder** said he realized it was not an easy task to get the two legislative bodies to agree on elements of transportation funding legislation. **Senator Winder** commended him for his work.

Chairman Brackett also thanked Representative Palmer and said he stood with the sentiments expressed by Senator Winder in his praising of the effort expended by Representative Palmer in getting **H 312** to the Senate. He said he understood there was business in the House that needed Representative Palmer's attention.

Representative Palmer thanked the Senators and the Committee and departed the hearing.

Chairman Brackett welcomed those who signed up to testify on **H 312** and offered each member of the Committee an opportunity to direct questions to those testifying until they were satisfied that their questions were fully answered.

TESTIMONY: **Brent Olmstead** said he was representing the Milk Producers of Idaho and the tax committee of the Idaho Food Producers. Both organizations support this legislation. **Mr. Olmstead** stood for questions. **Senators Winder** and **Hagedorn** asked questions regarding enforcing wrongful dyed diesel use, penalties and whether testing, or dipping, is being done by the Idaho State Police (ISP).

TESTIMONY: **Seth Grigg**, Executive Director of the Association of Idaho Cities, said he was also representing the Idaho Association of Counties and the Idaho Association of Highway Districts. All three organizations support **H 312**. It is a challenge to maintain roads on the local level. The Highway Distribution Account (HDA) brought \$120 million in revenue to local jurisdictions, but costs continue to increase and revenue received remains constant. The work local governments perform needs to be supported. They all support a broad base of ways to generate transportation revenue. **Mr. Grigg** stood for questions. **Senator Hagedorn** asked about property taxes and whether they help offset increased costs.

TESTIMONY: **Jeremy Chou**, Givens Pursley and representing the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Idaho, said they support **H 312**. This bill is a good start, but the need is \$262 million per year and this bill does not meet that need. When not spending money on maintenance, it becomes a matter of deficit spending. Therefore, ACEC of Idaho supports amending **H 312**. **Mr. Chou** said he knows there is a need for a consensus in the next week or two. **Mr. Chou** stood for questions, but there were none.

Chairman Brackett asked if there were others in the audience who wished to testify, but there were none. He told the Committee that **H 312** was now before them.

Senator Keough said that this bill deals with increases in registration fees for cars and trucks as well as fees for electric and hybrid vehicles. This is a step in the right direction, but falls short of the needs of \$262 million per year for maintenance.

MOTION: **Senator Keough** moved to send **H 312** to the 14th Order for amending. **Senator Hagedorn** seconded the motion.

Chairman Brackett asked if there was any discussion on the motion.

Senator Vick called for a roll call vote on the motion. **Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Nonini, Senators Keough, Winder, Hagedorn, Buckner-Webb** and **Lacey** voted aye. **Senators Vick** and **Den Hartog** voted nay. The motion passed.

Senator Winder said he believed the Chairman and Committee members had ideas for amendments that will be advanced. Monday, April 6, 2015, would be the soonest that the bill could be amended. He encouraged those who had amendments to get them to the Secretary of the Senate quickly.

Chairman Brackett stated that there had been discussion within the Committee and among colleagues regarding possible amendments.

Senator Winder said that unlike in the House, amendments are done in the Committee of the Whole on the Senate floor. He mentioned that there are still other transportation funding bills that need to be considered.

Chairman Brackett thanked the Committee and confirmed that there are other bills being discussed that would address transportation funding needs.

ADJOURNED: With no other business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary