

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 04, 2019
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW42
MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Dayley, Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Erpelding, Toone, Abernathy
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Roger Seiber; Chelsea Wilson, PPA; Mike Standlee, Idaho Farmers for Health; Dusty Standlee, Idaho Farmers for Health; Thom Brodeur-Kazanjian, Idaho Farmers for Health; Kevin Gillian, Idaho Farmers for Health; Ann Bates, Idaho Nursery and Landscape; Linda Strain, District 9; Esteban Galan, District 9; Marv Patten, Milk Producers of Idaho; Brad Carlson, Capitol Press; Sean Ellis, Idaho Farm Bureau

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

Mike Standlee, Idaho Farmers for Health, stated his desire is to keep Idaho kids in Idaho by embracing more agriculture opportunities through new industry.

Thom Brodeur-Kazanjian, Idaho Farmers for Health, explained hemp means the plant Cannabis Sativa L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. He stated with this low concentration, it is practically impossible to abuse hemp for recreational purposes.

Mr. Brodeur-Kazanjian explained the myths surrounding hemp and marijuana, noting hemp is not a drug, does not make people high, does not cause death, nor is it widely illegal or unsafe for use. He indicated hemp has been called 'anti-marijuana' because it contains a high percentage of the cannabinoid CBD which blocks the THC characteristics found in marijuana that cause people to get high. Mr. Brodeur-Kazanjian stated hemp is the most nutrient-rich seed in the world and has been used in food products for thousands of years. Hemp cultivation is allowed in 35 states; Idaho is one of only three states that has a blanket ban on hemp. He explained with the passage of the Hemp Farming Act of 2018, all hemp regulation now moves to state governments and away from the DEA. It is now up to the states and the US Department of Agriculture to develop hemp growing protocols.

Mr. Brodeur-Kazanjian explained the reasons why Idaho is a good fit to grow and harvest a hemp crop. He stated hemp compares to the requirements of corn crops in soil conditions, harvesting equipment and use of water with a complementary harvest cycle of 100-150 days for seeds and 60-90 days for fiber. He stated there is a diverse and large market with over 50,000 uses for hemp.

Mr. Brodeur-Kazanjian requested the legislature work to amend Idaho Code, engage Idaho State resources through the State Department of Agriculture to regulate hemp growers by determining hemp growing limits, regulation, taxation and commercial sale or use.

In response to several committee questions, **Mr. Brodeur-Kazanjian** reported he would get the requested information to the committee members as quickly as possible.

Jonathan Parker, representing Idaho Farmers for Health, stated hemp was incorrectly classified as a type one drug in 1927. The 2018 Farm Bill made it legal for hemp to be grown in the United States. He requested the legislature work to change the Idaho law and then leave it up to the farmers to work out the details. He explained how the crop would help the economy and expand tax revenues.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary