

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019
- TIME:** 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment
- 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:** Dan Hargraves, SIPCO; Marc Foster, SIPCO; Brad Carlson, Capitol Press; Jeff Harper, Potato Grower; Mike Telford, United Seed Growers; Keith Esplin, Potato Growers of Idaho; Rick Waitley, Leadership Idaho Agriculture; Duane Grant, Grant 4-D Farms; Wayne Thiessen, Thiessen Consulting; Doug Gross, Gross Farms
- Chairman Boyle** called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Abernathy** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, February 20, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Rick Waitley**, LIA, introduced Class 39 of Idaho Leadership Agriculture. He explained these quality men and women come from diverse backgrounds and regions all sharing a common commitment to agriculture and rural Idaho. He said this network of graduates provides leadership to a wide range of organizations and industries.
- H 121:** **Ken McClure**, stated this legislation deals with negotiations between the potato processors and the potato growers, creating a time period for a potato processing producer association and potato processor to negotiate, in good faith, an agreement for the purchase and sale of raw potatoes for processing. He said if a potato processor and potato processing producer association fail to reach agreement within the specified time period, then members of a potato processing producer association may negotiate individually with potato processors. He said the legislation also establishes definitions for the potato processing producer association and potato processor.
- Those speaking **in support** were **Dan Hargraves**, SIPCP; **Mark Foster**, SIPCP; **Mike Telford**, United Seed Growers; **Keith Esplin**, Potato Growers of Idaho; **Wayne Thiessen**, Thiessen Consulting; **Doug Gross**, Gross Farms; stating the legislation will restore parity in pricing and keep processors competitive with one another while protecting the interest of the raw potato suppliers of the frozen fry industry.
- Duane Grant**, Grant 4-D Farms, spoke **in opposition** stating, if the State chooses to use the power of the State to govern what is otherwise a private-party negotiation, it must do so in a way that will bring value to both the farmer/producer and the processor/customer. He outlined several problems he saw in the bill and suggested Idaho follow Washington's lead and place the Idaho Department of Agriculture at the table to ensure the arm's length administration of the law.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Zito** made a motion to send **H 121** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. McClure** clarified if a grower does not belong to a Coop, then this legislation does not affect them. He said the processors were in support of the dates designated in the legislation.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Boyle called for a vote on the motion to send **H 121** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary