

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 04, 2020

TIME: 1:30 PM or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Boyle, Vice Chairman Troy, Representatives Kerby, Stevenson, Zito, Andrus, Giddings, Goesling, Marshall, Nichols, Raymond, Kiska, Toone, Abernathy, McCrostie

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Goesling

GUESTS: Mac Haddow, American Kratom Assoc; Christopher Deardes, Happy Hippo; Ethan Stachowics, Happy Hippo; Chanel Tewalt, ISDA; Jeff Gusfeld; Celia Gould, ISDA; Douglas Jones; Caleb Pirc, Idaho Farm Bureau

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Kiska** made a motion to approve the minutes of the Monday, February 24 and Wednesday, February 26, 2020 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Boyle turned the gavel over to **Rep. Zito**.

HJM 15: **Rep. Boyle** said this memorial supports the White House Council of Environmental Quality in updating the National Environmental Policy Act Rules (NEPA). She said it has been over 40 years since they have been updated.

In response to a committee question, **Rep. Boyle** said by updating and streamlining the rules, rather than taking years to complete a project it might only take months.

Caleb Pirc, representing Idaho Farm Bureau said they stand **in support** of **HJM 15** as this sends a clear message to the administration about the importance of the proposed and future NEPA reforms.

Doug Jones said having worked on a variety of projects directly affected by NEPA policies, he feels the policies supported here are working.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to send **HJM 15** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCrostie** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Zito turned the gavel over to **Chairman Boyle**.

S 1223: **Rep. Stevenson** said consistent with the Red Tape Reduction Act, this bill seeks to eliminate obsolete restrictions. She said the ISDA seeks to remove excessive and burdensome regulations imposed on Idaho's businesses.

Chanel Tewalt, Chief Operating Officer ISDA said this legislation repeals two chapters which include some labeling of imported food as well as the enrichment of bread and flour. She said the changes were necessary as they no longer reflect market driven standards.

MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to send **S 1223** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Stevenson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1224: **Rep. Nichols** said this is a clean up bill requested by the ISDA because the license does not meet Licensing Freedom Act thresholds for continuation as a regulatory requirement. She said removing the regulation would not substantially harm the safety or welfare of the public who can be protected by less restrictive means. She explained the bill proposes repealing the weightmaster's license requirements while preserving weight ticket standards.

Chanel Dewalt explained all weight measuring devices will still be required to be licensed. She said the department is **in support** of this bill moving forward.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to send **S 1224** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nichols** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1225: **Rep. Andrus** stated this legislation removes the requirement for the ISDA to set payment interest in rule as the rate is established in Idaho Code and an additional rule is unnecessary. He said the bill also replaces semiannual tonnage reporting with annual reporting for both fertilizers and soil and plant amendments.

MOTION: **Rep. Kiska** made a motion to send **S 1225** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1286: **Colby Cameron**, DFM stated this bill is consistent with the Red Tape Reduction Act. He said in their review they were able to eliminate five out of six provisions as these had been on the books since 1898 and no longer were applicable.

MOTION: **Rep. Troy** made a motion to send **S 1286** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Zito** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 567: **Rep. Zollinger** requested the bill be returned to the sponsor. He said there is more work to be done with the stakeholders involved.

Mac Haddow, Senior Fellow and Public Policy for the American Kraton Association said he represents over 15 million people who currently are consumers of kraton products. He said his association wants to stop the FDA from taking the freedom of the American public to use this plant safely for their health and well being. They want FDA to properly implement standards through the authority granted them to ensure consumers the kraton they are buying is pure and not adulterated. He explained several states had already adopted these standards with more than 26 other states considering similar legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to **HOLD H 567** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary