

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 18, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, von Ehlinger, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** James Curry, Bayer; Randy Vranes, Bayer; Roger Batt, Bayer; Karianne Fallow, Dairy West; Marv Patten, Milk Producer of Idaho; Bob Naerebout, IDA; Russ Hendricks, Farm Bureau; David Claiborne, IDA

**Vice Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes from February 16, 2021.  
**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Vice Chairman Andrus** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Kauffman**.

**H 167:** **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Dairyman's, explained this legislation simply states if they look at good science, they also have to take into account the financial impact the good science has on the dairy or livestock producers. He said the science needs to apply to what is good for the state or the region. He said the decision for what is economically feasible will be decided at the table during the Rule Making process.

In answer to a committee question about how this legislation will improve the negotiating process, **Mr. Naerebout** said adding the words "if available" is key.

**Jonathan Oppenheimer**, Idaho Conservation League expressed concern this legislation amends existing law requiring the Idaho Department of Agriculture to apply best available science as they develop rules related to dairy and beef feedlots. This allows industry groups to ignore the best available science if the ISDA determines it isn't considered economically feasible. He stated if this change is enacted, the ISDA will be placed in a challenging position of determining what is economically feasible for dairies and beef industries.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **H 167** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Naerebout** clarified that even with-in a year of record receipts, there were still dairyman filing for bankruptcy, so rather than looking at a snap shot in time to decide economic feasibility, the decision will be based on the history cycle of the industry.

**Russ Hendricks**, Farm Bureau and **Marv Patten** IMP, both spoke **in support** of the legislation.

**VOTE ON THE MOTION:** **Chairman Kauffman** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 167** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ruchti** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Karianne Fallow**, CEO of United Dairymen's of Idaho, said in 2020, Idaho dairy farmers produced 16,208,490,950 pounds of milk resulting in a variety of products and supporting 37,000 job's in Idaho's economy. She explained 2020 presented real challenges for the dairy farmers as they lost market due to restaurant, food service industry and schools closures. Curds of Kindness was created to get surplus milk into the hands and homes of those who need it the most. In June of this year, they were able to take Curd of Kindness across the region stopping at hospitals, clinics, food banks, and fire stations to show front line workers how much their efforts were appreciated. This program saved dairies from going out of business by creating a solution to prevent milk from being disposed.

**James Curry**, Government Affairs Lead, Bayer, said he wanted to take this opportunity to explain how important the state of Idaho is to Bayer and to give an update on future investments in the state.

**Randy Vranes**, Business Unit Lead Mineral Activies, said he appreciated the opportunity to talk concerning the mining the projects in South East Idaho. He explained the history of mining in the area beginning with the Ballard mine in 1951. He said Trail Creek and Caldwell Canyon are the two newest mines. He explained the Caldwell Canyon mine permitting process began in 2014 and took about 5 1/2 years to be approved, when it normally would take up to 10 years. He told of their process to always back fill as they mine an area and the remediation process including water treatment and plant scrubbing system upgrades.

**James Curry**, Government Affairs Lead, Bayer, said herbicide products have gotten a lot of negative press in the last few years but added the investments Bayer is making in Southeastern Idaho speak to the commitment they have for their product which has been safely used for over 40 years. He said safety regulators around the world as recently as last year continue to assess the fact that when used according to the label, Round Up does not pose a health risk and is not a carcinogenic.

In response to a committee question as to whether there have been any modifications to the product, **Mr. Curry** said the formula has not changed, but they made some modifications to the labeling.

**Chairman Kauffman** recognized **Kaity Reineke** and thanked her for her service to the committee as a House Page.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Representative Kauffman  
Chair

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Joan Majors  
Secretary