

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 04, 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:** Rep. Andrus, Nichols

GUESTS: Andi Woolf-Weibye, Idaho Bean Commission

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

RS 28701: **Rep. Troy** stated this legislation revises provisions for how Commissioners are appointed to the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission and repeals the ability to establish any new Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 28701**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1122: **Teri Murrison**, Administrator of Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission, said these proposed changes are in line with the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Act to eliminate outdated or unnecessary provisions in the Code. The changes include standardizing all references to Districts and the Commission as "Conservation District" and "Conservation Commission" as well as removing the Idaho OnePlan as it has been unfunded and non-operational for almost a decade.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to send **S 1122** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Cannon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Moya Shatz-Dolsby, Executive Director of Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission, stated their mission is to support Idaho grape growers and wine makers and act as a united voice for the Idaho wine industry, by helping to grow awareness and sales of Idaho wines. Idaho wine has a 150 year history. As of 2020 there are 65 wineries and 1,300 acres planted in Idaho. She explained the favorable conditions in Idaho for growing grapes including the rich volcanic soil, four distinct season and Idaho's warm growing season. She reviewed the budget explaining due to Covid-19 restrictions, IWC lost revenue which resulted in the reduction of staff. She said there is upcoming legislation to change the percentage of excise tax on wine.

Andi Woolf-Weibye, Executive Director of Idaho Bean Commission, said their mission statement is to promote Idaho's premier reputation as a consistent, top-quality, disease free, dry and green bean seed producer, and promote beans as a nutritious and healthy food. She explained their objectives for this coming year which include promoting Idaho bean seed and bean consumption, conduct grower education and educating consumers. She reported how the pandemic has affected the budget as so many events could not take place and had to be cancelled. She reviewed the current grants and research from 2017 to 2020. Idaho currently is number one in the nation for bean seed production and number 5 in bean production.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary