

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 08, 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: None

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

SCR 106 **Casey Chumrau**, Executive Director of Idaho Wheat Commission, stated their present building was built in 1945 and is now in need of significant repair. She said it made more financial sense to rebuild on the property they now own. She said there will be no impact to the general fund as the Idaho Wheat Commission has set aside money to put towards the building. She said the purpose of the concurrent resolution is to authorize and allow them to bond the remainder of the money through the State Building Authority. She said the tenants that now occupy the building will continue to rent in the new building, defraying costs.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **SCR 106** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by voice vote of 8 AYE, 5 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Kauffman, Andrus, Kerby, Marshall, Cannon, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias. Voting in opposition to the motion; Reps. Boyle, Giddings, Nichols, Hanks, Moon. Rep. von Ehlinger was absent/excused. Rep. Kauffman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Naomi LeGere-Gordeon, Executive Secretary of Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, supplied the committee with their annual report detailing the expenditures of monies received by the Sheep, Lamb and Wool Promotions as required by Idaho Code and administered by Idaho Wool Growers. She said the current assessment on wool is ten cents per pound and broke down the four categories it is used for. She said due to low prices for wool over the past few years, many sellers are holding their wool until they can get a better price per pound. She said there are 230,000 head in the state making Idaho among the top ten states for sheep and lambs. She detailed several programs sponsored by IWGA to educate and inform the public of the importance of the Idaho sheep industry.

Brad Griff, Executive Director for Idaho Sugar Beet Association, explained sugar beets are a root crop grown below the soil, usually weighing up to 3-5 pounds and are harvested in the late fall to increase sugar content. Sugar beets are grown in 11 states, primarily in the northern states where warm days and cooler nights produce the best crop. Idaho is the largest producer of sugar beets in the nation and accounts for 18% of sugar beet production in the country. **Mr. Griff** spoke to the importance of using the best farming practices to achieve sustainability by decreasing the use of pesticide, reducing fuel usage, improving soil health and increasing efficiency.

Jessica Anderson, Public Affairs Manager for Amalgamated Sugar, said they are the second largest beet sugar company in the nation producing 10% of the nation's real sugar. They were founded in 1897 and now have three processing factories, employing 1,700 employees. She spoke concerning the three legislative priorities which are transportation, recruiting talent for employment opportunities in the industry and continuing agricultural research. She explained sugar is more than just sweetness. Along with fat and protein, sugar provides the body with energy and should be included in moderation and portion control in a healthy diet.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary