

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Friday, January 13, 2023
- TIME:** 8:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Toews, Wintrow, and Ruchti
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He asked that **RS 29928C1** be heard first.
- RS 29928C1:** **Steven Bailey**, Deputy Director of the Department of Administration (Department), introduced Keith Reynolds, Director of the Department. Steven Bailey described the proposed legislation as related to managing acquisitions, rental tax status and record keeping of State-owned dwellings. He noted the proposal would make the Statute consistent with current practices without impact on the State's General Fund. He requested the Committee send RS 29928C1 to print.
- MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved that **RS 29928C1** be sent to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. Motion carried by **voice vote**.
- GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed Megan Ronk and asked her to talk about her reappointment to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (Commission).
- Megan Ronk** shared the Commission reviewed about 300 discrimination cases per year with a high threshold to determine cause. If no probable cause was found, the case was dismissed; otherwise, it might proceed to mediation for resolution. She emphasized cases rarely proceeded to litigation.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Lee** asked about potential needs for improvement. **Megan Ronk** recalled that since 2008 there were fewer and fewer cases with discrimination findings, which she equated to better education of the public and good cooperation between stakeholders.
- Senator Wintrow** asked Megan Ronk to share why she wanted to be reappointed to the Commission. **Megan Ronk** cited the professionalism of the staff and her desire to give back to the State.
- GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Chairman Guthrie** introduced Richard Stover and invited him to share about himself and his appointment to the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (Office).
- DISCUSSION:** **Richard Stover** identified as a native Idahoan, who grew up and was educated in Idaho. He touched on his career as an attorney and the privilege of having worked closely with two prior Idaho Governors. He believed his education, life experiences and skills were an asset to this appointment. He declared he and the staff would follow the Governor's mission to assure strategic investment in infrastructure and work with the business community to grow Idaho's economy to enjoy inexpensive, reliable power.

Senator Bernt commented on the vast experiences and servant hearts of Mr. Stover and Ms. Ronk.

Chairman Guthrie thanked presenters and informed them the Committee would vote on their appointments on January 16, 2023.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: Due to technical issues, the reappointment of Russell Ludlow was postponed to January 16, 2023.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:19 a.m..

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Joyce Brewer
Secretary