

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 02, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Nash, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep.(s) Nash, Roberts, Cannon

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023, January 26, 2023, and January 30, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

DOCKET NO. 24-3801-2200F: **Tim Frost**, Deputy, Occupational and Professional Licenses, said no changes were made to **Docket No. 24-3801-2200F**.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 24-3801-2200F**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

Jamey Higham, President/CEO, Idaho Potato Commission (IPC), stated their mission is to provide market development, production research, and promote potatoes grown in Idaho. Idaho has faced multiple years of drought and increased costs. Funding for research is critical in developing potato varieties which would consume less water, are heat tolerant, resistant to pests, and meet consumer expectations. Labor costs are closely tied in with inflation. Idaho agriculture is facing labor challenges, both with domestic and foreign-based labor. In response to committee questions, Mr. Higham explained Burbank russet potatoes are harder to grow and their water content is less than other potatoes, making them an ideal choice for french fries.

Roger Batt, Idaho Grape and Wine Commission (IGGWPC), Legislative Advisor, spoke to the committee regarding the history of wine in Idaho, and introduced **Moya Dolsby**, Executive Director. Ms. Dolsby said IGGWPC's values are to be inclusive, kind, clear, and respectful. The mission is to be the united voice to market, and promote and champion all Idaho's winegrowers and winemakers. Their mission is to sustain a growing wine industry respected for its committed growers and producers, passionate consumers, and distinctive wines. Idaho wines are of high quality and an important part of Idaho's economy.

Mike Williamson explained he is a fourth generation fruit grower from Sunny Slope. He said it takes about four years to get a full crop from planting. Grapes need about an acre and a half of water per acre. Labor costs include housing for labor, homestead houses, materials, post, wire, irrigation, fuel and land. The land resource is becoming scarce. **Mark Pasculli**, Rolling Hills Vineyard, spoke of the wine making process, the time from harvest to bottle, the cost per bottle of wine, and winery issues. From harvest to sell to consumers takes from 12 to 36 months.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Representative Kevin Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary