

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 30, 2024

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 (Coberly), Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Rick Waitley, Executive Director of Food Producers of Idaho and the sponsor of the University of Idaho Public Policy Tour, acknowledged **Rep. Raymond** for his significant contributions to agriculture. Rep. Raymond was honored with the Friend of Industry Award from the Northwest Agricultural Council.

Mr. Waitley introduced the 22nd Annual AG Econ Public Policy/Legislative Tour 2024 University of Idaho Students and Advisors.

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

**DOCKET NO.
29-0101-2301:** **Sam Eaton**, Vice President of Agriculture, outlined the comprehensive rules set by the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC). These rules cover tax payments, record-keeping obligations for various stakeholders, utilization of Certification Marks and Trademarks, branding specifications for individual potatoes, state brand grade and packing standards, reporting protocols, labeling and revocation processes, and additional labeling requirements. They collectively govern all procedures conducted under the purview of the IPC.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 29-0101-2301. Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

Jamey Higham, President, IPC, emphasized IPC safeguards and promotes the "Grown in Idaho" seal, a federally registered trademark, ensuring consumers of the authenticity and superior quality of Idaho potatoes. Issues facing industry are water management, inflation, and Federal Over-Regulation.

Samantha Parrott of the Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association (SRSGA) introduced **Zach Patterson**, who emphasized the primary goal is to advocate for the industry and ensure the sustainability of domestic sugar production. **Galen Lee**, Vice President, highlighted key legislative priorities, including labor, water, infrastructure, and farmland preservation.

Brodie Griffin, Vice President of Amalgamated Sugar, a wholly-owned cooperative and the second-largest beet company in the US, discussed the company's active implementation of an anaerobic digester. This initiative aims to improve processing efficiency, convert waste into biogas, and generate two megawatts of electricity. The sustainable approach involves repurposing beet pulp for cattle feed and employing a steam dryer to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2024, and January 24, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary