

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 12, 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 (Stinson), 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.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Andrus put the committee at ease at 1:32 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 1:39 p.m.

H 472: **Rep. Pickett** emphasized this legislation guarantees alignment between the obligation for ISDA to inspect plants and plant pests on private land and the statutory mandates governing ISDA's inspection protocols for livestock.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to send **H 472** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 474: **Rep. Boyle** highlighted this legislation concerning false reporting of pesticide and chemigation damage claims. There has been a rise in unfounded claims against applicators, which investigators have found to be baseless. This legislation introduces a misdemeanor criminal penalty for such false claims.

Speaking **in support** of **H 474**, **David Lehman** from Idaho Ag Aviation, **George Parker** from Idaho Ag Aviation Association, and **Mike Jurak** from Red Baron Ag Service, pointed out while some claims are legitimate and addressed by the Department of Agriculture, there's been an increase in claims involving local law enforcement. This suggests a deliberate attempt to cause problems, directly affecting real-world applicators. They also noted a rise in repeat offenders.

Jonathan Openheimer spoke **in opposition** to **H 474** stating it's already considered illegal to knowingly provide false information and should be enforced.

Director Tewalt stated ISDA doesn't investigate these claims as they are not covered in statute.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 474** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Nelsen, Pickett** and **Boyle** declared Rule 80. **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 31221: **Rep. Durrant** proposed legislation to streamline regulations for chemigation applicators in Idaho. Currently, state law mirrors federal rules, even though federal regulations don't mandate separate licensing for chemigation. The proposed law aims to decouple chemigation from federal licensing, enabling Idaho to establish its own licensing system in collaboration with farmers and applicators.

MOTION: Rep. Ehlers made a motion to introduce **RS 31221**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Representative Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary