

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 22, 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, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Mathias

**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. Gallagher** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 591:** **Rep. Raymond** emphasized **H 591** is centered around addressing chronic wasting disease in domestic elk. With oversight of the domestic elk population falling under the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, it's necessary to establish revised standards and definitions to ensure effective management of the issue.

**Mr. Siddoway** said under quarantine conditions animal movement is restricted, leaving them confined to small pens. Idaho standards for exposed herds were stricter than federal regulations, but they will now align with federal rules.

**Rulan Jones, Roy Klingler, Danielle Klingler, Alana Lerwill, Jeff Lerwill, Chase Jones, Greg Golightly, and Brad Walters**, elk ranchers, spoke in support of **H 591**, highlighting Idaho's regulations are more restrictive compared to those of other states. They emphasized if the herd is quarantined, there is no option to sell or harvest the animals, and they must still be cared for over a period of five years.

**Jonathan Oppenheimer**, Idaho Conservation League, and **Garret Visser**, Idaho Wildlife Federation, spoke in opposition to **H 591**, citing concerns about the necessity of implementing double fencing.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to send **H 591** to the floor with a **DO PASS** Recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Achilles** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 591** in committee. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by voice vote of 14 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Andrus, Raymond, Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Achilles, Mathias, and Roberts. Voting in opposition to the motion: None. Rep. Mathias was absent/excused. Rep. Raymond** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Dean Michael Parrella**, University of Idaho (U of I), explained the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences features key programs like the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, U of I Extension, and Idaho 4-H, driving research and education. Additionally, the Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health, CAFE, and the Meat Science and Innovation Center prioritize sustainability and food quality.

**Brett Wilder** spoke to the Financial Condition of Idaho Agriculture. Idaho, although small in overall economy, holds significant importance in agriculture, contributing to 17% of the total economic output. Canada stands as the primary destination for Idaho's exports, with a total of \$3.1 billion exported. However, in 2023, there was a decrease in export revenue compared to previous years.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary