

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Raymond, Vice Chairman Shirts, Representatives Cannon, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Hall, Healey, Mathias, Haws

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Beiswenger

**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 Raymond** called the meeting to order at 1:27 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Jamey Higham**, President and CEO of the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC), established in 1937, presented the Commission's annual legislative report. He reviewed the FY2025 audit and provided projections of income and expenditures and outlined key challenges facing the Idaho potato industry. These include trade uncertainty with major export partners in Canada, Mexico, and Asia, increased competition from India and China, and ongoing market pressures as input costs remain high despite moderating inflation and market prices declining from historic highs. Mr. Higham also noted nutrition-related challenges stemming from recently released Dietary Guidelines and the potential impacts of GLP-1 medications on consumer demand. Additional challenges discussed included labor availability, succession planning, weather variability, disease pressures, urbanization, and considerations for the 2025–2026 IPC commercial program.

In response to committee questions, **Sam Eaton**, Vice President at IPC, stated Mexico and Canada remain the industry's primary export markets under USMCA, which has largely shielded U.S. potato exports from direct tariff impacts this year. While some relational effects have been observed, potato exports themselves have not been significantly affected by tariffs. However, growers are experiencing indirect impacts through higher input costs, including tariffs on imported equipment and fertilizers. Exports to other markets, such as Taiwan and Vietnam, are subject to higher tariffs but remain limited in volume.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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Representative Raymond  
Chair

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Jayne Feik  
Secretary