

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 30, 2026

TIME: 8:30 A.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:** Reps. Miller, Hall, Sauter, Healy

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 8:30 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJM 10: **Rep. Crane(12)** presented **HJM 10**, urging Congress, HHS, and USDA to prioritize real sugar over artificial sweeteners in federally supported school meals. Current federal rules allow lab-created sweeteners such as aspartame and sucralose, which are increasingly appearing in school food products. Idaho, the nation's second-largest sugarbeet producer, offers a natural, plant-based alternative which aligns with the MAHA agenda while supporting a billion-dollar agricultural industry and thousands of rural jobs. The memorial does not regulate parents, school districts, or vending machines, but serves as a request to prioritize real sugar in school lunch programs.

Samantha Parrott, Executive Director of the Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association, spoke **in support** of **HJM 10**. She stated the memorial supports Idaho agriculture and encourages Congress to prioritize real sugar in federally supported school meals. Ms. Parrott noted concerns about the increasing use of artificial sweeteners in school foods and emphasized sugar from sugar beets is a natural, plant-based ingredient.

Galen Lee, fourth generation sugarbeet grower, spoke **in support** of **HJM 10**, saying Idaho sugarbeets provide a real, plant-based ingredient grown safely at home. Sugar helps nutritious food taste good so kids will eat it, and replacing sugar with artificial sweeteners doesn't always improve nutrition. This memorial simply asks Congress to prioritize real ingredients in school meals.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **HJM 10** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Crane(12)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:38 a.m.

Representative Raymond
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary