

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2021

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Kauffman, Vice Chairman Andrus, Representatives Boyle, Kerby, Giddings, Marshall, Nichols, Hanks, Cannon, Moon, von Ehlinger, Toone, Ruchti, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Nichols

GUESTS: Rick Waitley, Food Producers; Liz Hatter, Greenwich Bioscience

Chairman Kauffman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 8, 2021.
Motion carried by voice vote.

Rick Waitley, President of Waitley Association Management Group, explained the three main purposes commissions exist are to educate both the producers and the public, for research and to promote products. He clarified who governs commissions and how they are compensated. He said the staff is dependent on the size of the commission and gave examples of some staff considered state employees in all aspects while others are only considered state employees some of the time. He detailed the process for appointing commissioners and discussed the assessments which often times are established as a range under Idaho Code.

RS 28449: **Braden Jensen**, Idaho Farm Bureau, presented **RS 28449**, regarding the legalization of the production, processing, transport, and research of industrial hemp in the state of Idaho. He stated throughout the country there are 49 states, two territories, and 48 tribes that have legalized industrial hemp in some form or fashion. He said the Idaho legislature has considered this issue over the past several years as the Farm Bureau has worked with the various stakeholders on this topic. They include members of the agriculture industry, trucking industry, state agencies, and law enforcement.

Mr. Jensen explained the proposed legislation defines industrial hemp, directs ISDA to develop a state hemp plan, and permits the production, research, processing and transportation of hemp containing 0.3% or less of tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) in the state according to the provisions of the 2018 Farm Bill. He indicated this legislation defines industrial hemp using the same language as the 2018 Farm Bill in addition to providing for the legal transportation and possession of industrial hemp in and through the state. He continued to explain it provides a severability clause and an emergency clause allowing the legislation to go into effect upon its passage and approval.

Mr. Jensen indicated Farm Bureau's goals for this proposed legislation are to legalize the production of industrial hemp in the state, maintain a strong and enforceable drug policy and to work to ensure all stakeholders are comfortable with the proposal they developed.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Jensen** stated this proposed legislation removes hemp from the schedule 1 list of controlled substances.

In response to a committee question concerning the fiscal impact to the ISDA, **Mr. Jensen** said the state would initially have start up costs of approximately \$150,000 to set up the program, but ongoing costs would be covered by the industry as it is intended to be self sustaining.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 28449. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Representative Kauffman
Chair

Joan Majors
Secretary