



Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment

ICIE's Saturday Summary–

Date: February 2, 2008

This is a weekly roundup of some of ICIE's activities in and around the Idaho Legislature. Staffing limits mean we can't cover every meeting. If there's an item of interest to you at an upcoming meeting of one of the environment or agriculture committees, let us know and we'll try to cover it. Agendas are available at www.state.id.us. Click on "Legislative" and click on "Calendars and agendas."

Senate Resources and Environment Committee Meeting, 1-28-08

The committee reviewed regulations for Idaho State Parks which covered the number of vehicles allowed at individual camp sites. The topic was continued throughout the week, with Senators asking for clarification on the types of vehicles considered when parked in a state park camp site (motorcycles on a trailer, for example). Also at issue was the language of the bill which proponents say would give the most leeway to camp hosts and Parks' Department personnel when dealing with a camp party of Hells Angels versus a large group made up of family members.

State Parks personnel also proposed a rule change regarding the safe operation of a motorized boat. While this rule previously did not pass in the House committee due to unfavorable public input, it passed unanimously in the Senate committee

Sharon Kiefer of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game presented SB1265, which would allow qualified disabled hunters to use a crossbow. The measure was approved to be sent to the Senate floor with a "do pass" recommendation. Also granted "do pass" recommendations were SB1267 and SB1269 which would amend an erroneous "two day only" reference to the tenure of out-of-state small game licenses and remove pygmy rabbits as a designated small game animal, as there has not been such a season for a long time.

SB1268 was also sent to the Senate floor. The bill would delete specific references to Regional Wildlife Councils charged with submitting names for consideration for appointment to regional winter feeding advisory committees. Kiefer noted that such

councils were still functioning only in a small number of the communities where winter feeding advisory committees exist.

Next week, the group will address North Idaho adjudication.

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House Resources and Conservation Committee Meeting, 1-29-08

Rep. Del Raybould presented HB 428 to the House Resources and Conservation Committee. The bill proposes that all Idaho aquifers be included in the water planning process. It would incorporate 10 known aquifers in the process, which is slated to take place over a 10 year period, costing \$20 million. The primary discussion revolved around what exactly the state would get for its \$20 million, with Rep. Barrett suggesting that planning for water shortages would be less helpful than building more dams and taking shorter showers. Kent Lauer of the Farm Bureau, Norm Semanko of the Idaho Water Users Association, and Lynn Tominaga of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators testified in support of the bill, which was sent to the House floor with a “do pass” recommendation.

Paul Kjellander, Administrator of the Office of Energy Resources presented information on the Renewable Energy Resources Fund which is part of HB432, which seeks to allocate funds that come from the sale, royalties, bonuses or rental of renewable energy sources on federal lands to the counties and the above fund. Ten percent of the revenues would go the counties in which these projects are located to be allocated to public schools and roads. Ninety percent of the funds would go to the Renewable Energy Resources Fund for use by the Idaho Office on Energy.

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The House Environment Energy and Technology Committee, 1-30-08

The committee heard a report from Senator Kate Kelly on HB422, which would set energy efficiency targets for public buildings larger than 5,000 square feet, and/or renovations or additions to projects of more than 5,000 square feet. She noted several “off ramps” to the 30% improvement in efficiency included in the bill:

- if it’s not fiscally prudent for the construction project to proceed in this way, or
- if the nature of the building (without HVAC needs, such as a warehouse, for example) would make it impractical to seek to improve efficiency

Senator Kelly noted that a number of other states had already implemented higher efficiency targets, and that the 30% improvement rate was based upon testimony about what would be considered a “doable” goal that will have fiscal benefits. The Senator clarified language in the bill that there be a 30% improvement over the current building code. The requirement would remain in place as the building code is updated. However,

the bill would come up for review in three years and the reality of a 30% improvement in efficiency in building projects can be re-evaluated at that time.

Ken Baker of the Association of Idaho Cities shared some information about the International Energy Conservation Code, which has been the State's baseline in energy efficiency. This act would put us above those requirements, and is also up for review every three years. The code, he said, is based upon the latest technologies and strategies that can be utilized, but it represents a broad standard.

Senator Kelly noted that savings from improved energy efficiency in public buildings is estimated at a cumulative total of more than \$800,000 over five years.

The bill was sent to the House floor with a "do pass" recommendation, although the vote was not unanimous, with Representatives Kren and Bowers opposed.

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From the Idaho Council on Industry & the Environment (ICIE), a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to facilitate the use of sound science and facts in shaping public policy on environmental issues.

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