



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Chair
Rep. Keven J. Stratton, Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Kera Birkeland
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Rep. Joel Ferry
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Phil Lyman

Rep. Michael K. McKell
Rep. Calvin R. Musselman
Rep. Mike Schultz
Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Rep. Susan Duckworth

Staff Present:

Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst
Alan Houston, Associate General Counsel
Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

1 . Impact of COVID-19 on Agriculture and the Food Supply Chain

Logan Wilde, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, introduced State Veterinarian, Dean Taylor. Dr. Taylor discussed the impact of some recent COVID-19 positive test results in the mink industry.

Commissioner Wilde gave an update on the impact of COVID-19 on other areas of the food supply chain.

The committee discussed the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and the food supply chain.

Gopi Krishna, private citizen, asked what can be done at the local level to improve the market for local producers. Commissioner Wilde responded.

2 . Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 interim meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas-16

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Schultz

3 . Access to Agriculture Grants and Loans

Commissioner Wilde discussed the status of the agricultural grants that were included in the federal CARES Act.

4 . Impact of COVID-19 on Oil, Gas, and Mining

Brian Steed, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, and John Baza, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, reported on the impact of COVID-19 on the oil, gas, and mining industry and discussed recommended statutory changes to temporarily suspend any new rulemaking or fees.

[4- S.B. 6004 "Regulatory Certainty Amendments"](#)

The committee discussed the proposed legislation and the audit released last year.

Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, discussed the impact on his agency of this possible legislation.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved that the committee favorably recommend S.B. 6004 to the full body of the Legislature when it is discussed during the 2020 Sixth Special Session. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas-15

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. M. McKell
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-4

Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Rep. C. Musselman
Rep. M. Schultz

5 . Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Payments as Federal Stimulus

[5a - H.C.R. 601 "Concurrent Resolution on Federal Government Payments in Lieu Taxes" TAXES](#)

Chair Stratton introduced and the committee discussed the proposed resolution.

MOTION: Chair Okerlund moved that the committee support this resolution as it goes before the full body of the Legislature during the 2020 Sixth Special Session.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Snider moved that the committee recommend that this resolution be amended with alternative language that he proposed on the floor during the 2020 Sixth Special Session. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 11 - 5 - 3.

Yeas-11

Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-5

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. P. Lyman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. K. Stratton

Absent-3

Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. M. Schultz

[5b - Alternative Language for H.C.R. 601](#)

6 . Status on the Conversion to Tier III Fuels

Director Bird briefly discussed this item.

[6a - Tier 3 Fuels - DAQ](#)

[6b - Statement for the Record from the Holly Frontier Corporation](#)

Mike Swanson, President, Big West Refinery, discussed the status of converting to Tier III Fuels at Big West Refinery.

Rep. Suzanne Harrison gave a presentation regarding a website that tracks where consumers can purchase Tier III fuels.

[6c - Tier III Gas Presentation](#)

7 . Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Rep. V. Lowry Snow introduced the issue of expanding electric vehicle charging stations in the state.

James Campbell, Director of Innovation and Sustainability Policy, Rocky Mountain Power, discussed their efforts towards expanding access to electric vehicle charging stations.

[7a - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Update Rocky Mountain Power](#)

Lyle McMillan, Director, Strategic Investments, Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT), discussed the progress from UDOT regarding electric vehicle charging stations in rural areas.

[7b - 2020 UDOT Electrification Efforts](#)

Josh Croft, private citizen, expressed support for this program.

8 . Utah Clean Air Caucus

Rep. Patrice M. Arent discussed the work of the Clean Air Caucus.

[8- Utah Clean Air Caucus presentation](#)

Rep. Snow discussed the mission statement of the Caucus.

Sen. Todd Weiler discussed the work of the Clean Air Caucus regarding winter inversion and increased levels of ozone during the summer months.

Rep. Stephen G. Handy discussed some of the economic development issues regarding clean air.

Sen. Luz Escamilla discussed the importance of this issue and thanked Rep. Arent for her great leadership.

9 . Sunset Review - Section 19-2a-102, Air Quality Policy Advisory Board

Todd Bingham, Manufacturers Association, recommended that the sunset date for the Air Quality Policy Advisory Board be extended.

10 . Sunset Review - Section 4-17-104, State Weed Committee

Robert Hougaard, Director, Plant Industry Division, spoke in favor of this committee and asked that the sunset date for the State Weed Committee be extended.

11 . Sunset Review - Subsection 63J-4-608(3) Federal Lands Application Advisory Committee

Kathleen Clarke, Coordinator, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, asked that the sunset date for the Federal Lands Application Advisory Committee be extended for another year.

12 . Automatic Repeal - Subsections 19-2-109.2(2) through (10) creates the Compliance Advisory Panel

Director Bird indicated that the Division is neutral about extending the automatic repeal date. However, he stated that if the Legislature chooses to extend the advisory panel, he asked that the repeal date be extended by at least 18-months.

13 . Utah Roadmap

Natalie Gouchnour, Director, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, gave a brief summary of Utah Roadmap and answered questions from the committee.

[9a - Utah Roadmap Presentation by Natalie Gouchnour](#)

[9b - Businesses in Support of Utah Roadmap Western Resource Advocates](#)

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.



Yeas-14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. K. Birkeland
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. J. Iwamoto
Rep. P. Lyman
Rep. C. Musselman
Sen. R. Okerlund
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays-0

Absent-5

Rep. S. Duckworth
Rep. T. Hawkes
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. McKell
Rep. M. Schultz

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.