



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

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INCOME TAXES

H436 passed the House of Representatives on Thursday with a heavy majority of legislators backing the bill. H436, the first 2022 Tax Relief bill, will **consolidate the income tax brackets from five brackets to four, lowering rates to 1%, 3%, 4.5% and 6%** and the rates would be retroactively set to January 1, 2022. The legislation would **lower the corporate income tax to 6%** backdated to January 1, 2022 as well. Moreover, H436 will provide a one-time tax rebate of \$350 million, returning approximately 12% of 2020 Idaho personal income tax or \$75 to each taxpayer and dependent, whichever is greater. Many legislators praised the rebate when debating the topic, but also noted that other tax cuts need to be made in the property and grocery tax arenas. All told, the bill would **set a record for tax cuts in Idaho of \$600 million.**

CENARRUSA DAY ON THE HILL

The Cenarrusa Day on the Hill event was established as a way to educate and inform FFA members throughout Idaho about public policy. The event attracts FFA students from every corner of Idaho. It is anticipated that **nearly 300 FFA members and guests will be present on Monday.** Freida Cenarrusa, widow of Pete Cenarrusa, will be present for the event.

CIVIL LIABILITY

Civil Liability Reform legislation was passed out of the House and Senate and **immediately signed into law by the Governor on the last day of the 3-day special legislative session in 2020.** The language specifically addressed immunity for a business, church, school or university from civil liability for damages or an injury that is a result of exposure to coronavirus. The law took effect immediately upon Governor Little's signature in 2020 but **was scheduled to sunset first on July 1, 2021 and then was extended to 2022.** Due to the continuation of the pandemic, H444 has been introduced to further extend the sunset date to **July 1, 2023** and is not expected to be controversial.

USDA IDAHO APPOINTMENTS

President Joe Biden announced in a press release on Thursday his intent to appoint eight U.S. Department of Agriculture regional positions, including two for Idaho: **Matt Gellings, State USDA FSA Director.** Gellings has served on Idaho's FSA State Committee for 12 years. He has served as chairman of the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Board of Trustees, the president of the Eastern Idaho Ag Hall of Fame and the president of the Bonneville County Grain Producers Association. A fourth-generation farmer, Gellings produces alfalfa, wheat, malt barley and potatoes at his farm in Idaho Falls. He has also maintained a cattle operation for 26 years.

Rudy Soto, State USDA Rural Development Director. Born and raised in Nampa, Soto is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and the son of a farmworker. Most recently, he worked for Western Leaders Network, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization of local and tribal elected officials across the Interior West focused on protecting public lands, water and air. Soto previously served as a legislative staffer in the U.S. House of Representatives, is a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard and received his bachelor's degree from Portland State University. Soto was the Democratic candidate for Idaho's 1st Congressional District in 2020, losing to Rep. Russ Fulcher.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DAY

Raising awareness with policy makers is an important part of any organization that has a mission engulfed in public policy. This week, the **Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts** held a reception with legislators on Monday evening. On Tuesday, displays were set up in the capitol rotunda to allow legislators and other interested individuals to interact with leaders from these districts and learn more about the programs in their home communities.

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