



# CAPITOL REVIEW

## A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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### A Weekly Legislative Report

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#### CAFO INVESTMENT FUND

There will be a number of important water initiatives available through opportunities presented to Idaho with the inflow of federal dollars for infrastructure support. The 2022 Water Resource Investment Plan **will potentially make once in a lifetime improvements available to address long term needs in Idaho's waterways and infrastructure.** H466 was introduced this week and will be one of those initiatives. The existing Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP) Fund supports investments in farm and ranch projects that improve water quality standards in impaired water bodies in Idaho. **Confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are not eligible for these projects because they do not directly discharge to water bodies.** The purpose of H466 is to make a fund available to support investments in environmental projects on CAFOs to improve livestock byproduct, waste, nutrient and water management, its land application and storage systems. The fund was added to the Governor's budget proposal on top of the recommended increase for BMP's.

#### U OF I CALS PRESENTATION

**Dean Michael Parrella with the University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (U CALS)** presented before Food Producers of Idaho, the House and Senate Agricultural Affairs Committees and the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee this week. Dean Parrella highlighted a handful of priorities that CALS has been working on for the past few years. He stressed to lawmakers that in order to **hire and retain highly qualified faculty and staff, the facilities needed to be modernized.** In order to modernize the facilities, CALS has entered into a number of partnerships that include both industry participants and the State of Idaho.

The other major challenge has paralleled what the ag industry and most of society has been dealing with the last year, being able to hire and keep a qualified

workforce. Over the past 12 months, **CALS has lost 22 faculty and 53 staff positions for an overall turnover rate of 16%.** The greatest impact of retention loss is at the local level at research & extension centers and county offices that rely heavily on the people interacting with farmers and ranchers. There are currently research & extension offices in 42 of the 44 counties under the CALS umbrella with 81 educators and 49 specialists.

There have been some encouraging trends with enrollment numbers increasing inside the college, outperforming the U of I average over the last year and expected to increase this year. **CALS led all colleges at the university from 2020 to 2021 with increases in new students (31.6%), undergraduates (10.6%) and total students (11.3%).** Moreover, CALS is also the only institution in the state that prepares ag teachers, 90% of which have a CALS degree, for the 97 school districts that have ag programs in Idaho. Also, there was **a record \$36 million in research dollars received this past year** and is estimated to increase this year.

#### END OF SESSION

Senator Jim Guthrie has introduced legislation, S1239, which would establish **a clear ending date for annual legislative sessions.** Currently in law, the legislative session starts on the Monday nearest the ninth day in January. However, there has not been an established target date to end. **In 2003** the legislature set a record of meeting for **118 days** and then in **2009** the legislature met for **117 days.** The 2021 Legislature set the newest record of **311 days** with all its stops and starts, and officially ended on November 29, 2021. Currently, Idaho Code does have a provision or guidelines for special sessions. They are called extraordinary sessions and are called by the Governor for a specific purpose, like the three-day session in August of 2020 that specifically dealt with liability reform. S1239 would end the legislature every year on or before 11:59 PM of the last Friday in March.

## 2022 ELECTION CYCLE

Election season is quickly approaching, and Idaho's **primary election will take place May 17**, barring any changes related to the redistricting process and the Idaho Supreme Court's rulings. **The general election will be held Nov. 8, 2022.** The deadline for candidates to file for statewide office is March 11 but a candidate may begin filing declarations of candidacy with the secretary of state on February 28.

The requirements are fairly simple:

- At least 21 years old at the time of the General Election.
- A citizen of the United States.
- An elector of the state at the time of the General Election.
- An elector of the Legislative District for at least 1 year at the time of the General Election.

This might be your time to consider serving your state as a candidate. More information about the filing deadlines and process can be found at the Idaho Secretary of State website.

## FRIENDS OF THE COOPERATIVE INDUSTRY

The NW Agriculture Cooperative Council, representing cooperatives in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana annually recognize two legislators, who are more than deserving of the Friends of the Cooperative Industry award. These individuals have demonstrated a dedication and passion towards Idaho agriculture, the people, and the industry.

### **Senator Van Burtenshaw**

Senator Van Burtenshaw grew up in a political family, where his father, the late Don Burtenshaw served as a State Legislator. Burtenshaw was first elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 2014 where he served two terms. He then was elected to the Idaho Senate, where he is serving his second term. Senator Burtenshaw is a farmer, rancher, and livestock dealer in the Terreton area. Senator Burtenshaw represents District 35 which is comprised of the counties of Butte, Clark, Fremont, and Jefferson Counties. Senator Burtenshaw serves as Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee and is a member of the Senate Resource and Environment Committee. He is married to his wife, Joni, and they have five children and 12 grandchildren. An interesting side: Senator Burtenshaw's father received this same award in 2003.

### **Representative Laurie Lickley**

Representative Laurie Lickley is a native of Salmon, and a 1990 graduate of the University of Idaho with a BS in agricultural economics. She and her husband raised their two children on the family's century farm and ranch in Jerome. Along with the day-to-day ranch

and farm operations in Idaho and Nevada, Laurie has served Idaho's beef industry at both the local and national level. Rep. Lickley served as a Director for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) from 2009-2011 and 2014-2016. Lickley is the past president of the Idaho Cattle Association and is a Lifetime affiliate member and former trustee of Leadership Idaho Agriculture; serves on Idaho's Behavioral Health Council 2020-present; and the Northwest Pacific Fisheries Task Force. Rep. Lickley currently is Vice-Chair of House Resources and Conservation Committee and serves on the House Environment, Energy and Technology Committee as well as the House Health and Welfare Committee. She is currently a member of Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan Advisory Council and is a Past president of Jerome Rotary.

## REDISTRICTING LAWSUIT

**The Idaho Supreme Court has rejected challenges to the state's new legislative district map.** The court released a unanimous opinion on Thursday that rejected the petitions. The petitions argued the map released by Idaho's bipartisan redistricting commission violated the Idaho Constitution. Legal challengers argued the commission violated the Idaho Constitution and state law by dividing too many counties, eight, and "communities of interest," such as tribal reservations. The lawsuits presented a challenge to the commission's discretion in splitting counties and communities. **The Court backed the commission's discretion in this case.** And they disavowed a previous court's ruling, which struck down a 2011 legislative map because it had split more counties than another proposed map. Thursday's ruling said the previous court's interpretation failed to consider language in the Idaho Constitution that says a county can be divided if the commission "reasonably determined" it should be divided to comply with the equal protection clause. The clause in the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, better known as the "one person, one vote" provision, states that legislative districts must be about equal in population to ensure the weight of a person's vote isn't based on geography. The lawsuits sought to remand the map back to the redistricting commission, which would've been required to elect new members and select new boundaries. **After surviving the legal challenge, the commission's preferred map will establish districts for the May primary election.**

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