



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

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WHAT IS CAPITOL REVIEW?

You are receiving Capitol Review, a publication produced **each Friday** during the Idaho Legislature, as a board member of a client served by Association Management Group. Lobbyists **Rick Waitley, Roger Batt, Patxi Larrocea-Phillips, and Kyle Rooks** are working to keep you apprised about legislative issues that are arising during the 2023 Idaho Legislature. If you have questions on issues or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Rick Waitley, Roger Batt, Patxi Larrocea-Phillips, and Kyle Rooks will be representing the following clients during the 2023 legislative session:

Rick Waitley/Patxi Larrocea-Phillips/Kyle Rooks:

AgWest Farm Credit
Food Producers of Idaho
Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Growers Association
Idaho Hay and Forage Association
Idaho Honey Industry Association
Idaho Onion Growers' Association
Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council

Patxi Larrocea-Phillips:

Idaho Wool Growers Association
Idaho Cattle Association

Kyle Rooks:

Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts

Roger Batt:

Bayer USA, LLC
FARE Idaho
Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association
Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Commission
Idaho Ground Water Association
Idaho Heartland Coalition
Idaho Mint Growers Association
Idaho-Oregon Seed Pesticide Council
Treasure Valley Water Users Association
Western Equipment Dealers Association

AG ALL STAR AWARDS PRESENTED

The **2023 Annual Ag All Star** dinner was held on Wednesday, January 11 at the Hilton Garden Inn in downtown Boise. Ag All Star awards were presented to seventeen House of Representative members and twenty-three Senate members who had achieved this status during the 2022 Legislative Session. **Over 100 attended the event** from many different commodity and farm organizations to show appreciation and support of the fourteen legislators selected. An All-Idaho menu was planned that featured many quality products, including Double R Ranch Prime Rib donated by Agri Beef.

House

Paul Amador
Scott Bedke
Megan Blanksma
Matthew Bundy
Greg Chaney
Marco Erickson
Marc Gibbs
Linda Wright Hartgen
Clark Kauffman*
Laurie Lickley*
Dustin Manwaring
Gary Marshall
Lori McCann
Scott Syme
Caroline Troy
Jon O. Weber
Rick Youngblood

Senate

Jeff Agenbroad
Kelly Anthon*
Robert Blair
Van Burtenshaw
Kevin Cook
Carl Crabtree
Lori Den Hartog
Scott Grow
Jim Guthrie*
Mark Harris*
Lee Heider
Todd Lakey
Abby Lee*
Dave Lent
Patti Anne Lodge*
Fred Martin
Jim Patrick*
Jim Rice
Doug Ricks
Mary Souza*
Julie Van Orden*
Chuck Winder
Jim Woodward

**Received award every year eligible*

Underline indicates first-time recipient

NEW ISDA DIRECTOR

On Thursday, January 5, we received notice that **Director Celia Gould would be stepping away from her post** as the lead at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. Gould, a Twin Fall native, is a third-generation owner and operator of a cattle ranch in Buhl. Before becoming the first female director of ISDA, Gould served in the Idaho House of Representatives for 16 years, from 1996 to 2002. Gould's leadership of the ISDA is highlighted through her organization of several international trade missions, steering the department and agriculture industry through the recession, and increasing Idaho's agricultural exports from \$1.2 billion in 2007 to nearly \$2.7 billion in 2021. As a result of this change, **Chanel Tewalt** was appointed by Governor Little to be the new Director this week. Tewalt has served as deputy director for the ISDA since 2021. Initially joining the agency as a college intern, Tewalt has gained over 15 years of experience working at ISDA, including as the agency's chief operations officer.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Brad Little delivered his 2023 State of the State and Budget Address on January 9, pledging to deliver on the mandate given by the people of Idaho to continue investing in public schools, strengthen our workforce, provide more tax relief, and promote safe communities. Highlights of Governor Little's State of the State and Budget Address and IDAHO FIRST plan include:

- **EDUCATION – 80% of Idaho voters** affirmed the record education investments passed during the 2022 extraordinary session last September. Governor Little's plan fulfills the \$330 million investment in K-12 public schools by targeting starting teacher pay in the top 10 nationally, boosting pay and benefits for all teachers to keep our state competitive, closing the salary gap for classified staff, improving school facility security, and other steps.
- **WORKFORCE** – The availability of skilled workers is the #1 challenge facing Idaho employers. Governor Little's plan gets more skilled workers through their doors and opens more opportunities for Idahoans by providing access to an **\$8,500 scholarship starting next year to graduating high school students in Idaho** to attend an Idaho university, community college, career technical or workforce training program of their choice. The "Idaho Launch" scholarship will be the single largest investment in career technical and workforce training in state history.
- **TAX RELIEF** – While no local property taxes are paid to state government and no state official can decide what local property taxes will be, Idahoans are demanding relief from rising property taxes. Governor Little's plan puts **\$120 million to defray**

local property taxes. Governor Little's plan also fulfills the income tax reductions passed during the 2022 extraordinary session, which were affirmed by four out of five Idaho voters.

- **INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS** – Governor Little and the Legislature have championed investments in critical infrastructure without raising taxes or fees. The Governor's budget builds off these previous commitments with **more than \$1 billion in new investments** including fully funding the known ongoing transportation safety gap and improving local bridges, airports, and pedestrian and safety projects, and expanding broadband. His plan makes continued investments in water, energy, outdoor recreation, and agriculture.
- **SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** – Governor Little's plan continues to implement recommendations from Idaho's historic three-branch Behavioral Health Council with more than **\$100 million to expand resources for mental health and childcare**, improve emergency medical services in rural areas, add more physicians, and make other investments to improve services for Idaho families.
- **FISCAL PRUDENCE** – Governor Little's budget **continues fiscal prudence** to better prepare Idaho for any economic conditions by paying off debt, addressing deferred maintenance, bolstering rainy-day funds, augmenting the fire suppression fund, maintaining a structurally balanced budget, and leaving a healthy surplus to provide a greater cushion against economic uncertainty.

AG COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

This session brings new leadership for both Agricultural Affairs Committees. The Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee **will be chaired by Senator Linda Wright Hartgen**. Senator Hartgen is new to the Senate this year but not new to agriculture. She formerly owned a farm in the Twin Falls area with her husband. Senator Hartgen served two terms (4 years) in the House before transitioning to the Senate. **The new House Agricultural Affairs committee chairman will be Representative Kevin Andrus**. Rep. Andrus is from Lava Hot Springs and works as rancher and horse trainer. Rep. Andrus has served on this committee in the past as Vice Chairman and is serving his 3rd term in the Idaho House.

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