



# 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, Benjamin Kelly and Cassidey Plum** are working to keep you apprised about legislative issues. 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, Benjamin Kelly, and Cassidey Plum will be representing the following clients during the 2024 legislative session:

#### **Rick Waitley/Patxi Larrocea-Phillips/Benjamin Kelly:**

AgWest Farm Credit  
Food Producers of Idaho  
Idaho Alfalfa/Clover Seed Growers Association  
Idaho Hay/Forage Association  
Idaho Honey Industry Association  
Idaho Onion Growers' Association  
Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association  
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association  
NW Agriculture Cooperative Council

#### **Patxi Larrocea-Phillips:**

Idaho Cattle Association  
Idaho Wool Growers Association

#### **Roger Batt and Cassidey Plum:**

Boise Flood Control District #10  
Coalition for Agriculture's Future  
FARE Idaho  
Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association  
Idaho Ground Water Association  
Idaho Mint Growers Association  
Treasure Valley Water Users Association

#### **Roger Batt:**

Bayer US, LLC  
Idaho Grape Growers/Wine Comm.

#### AG ALL STAR AWARDS PRESENTED

A total of 42 legislators were recognized at an event on Tuesday morning, January 10 at the Food Producers Ag All Star event. Those being honored gained the recognition and award based upon their votes on Food Producers issues in the 2023 legislature. Ag industry leaders from a variety of industries joined the legislature for the breakfast honoring the achievement:

#### **House (26 All Stars)**

Christopher Allgood  
Matthew Bundy  
Richard "Rick" Cheatum  
Chenele Dixon  
Melissa Durrant  
Marco Erickson  
Sonia Galaviz  
John Gannon  
Dan Garner  
Brooke Green  
Clay Handy  
Wendy Horman  
Greg Lanting  
Lori McCann\*  
Stephanie Mickelsen  
Steve Miller\*  
Jack Nelson  
James Petzke  
Doug Pickett  
Britt Raybould  
Jerald Raymond\*  
Mark Sauter  
Jon Weber  
Josh Wheeler  
Kenny Wroten  
Julie Yamamoto

#### **Senate (16 All Stars)**

Kelly Anthon\*  
Treg Bernt  
Van Burtenshaw  
Kevin Cook  
C. Scott Grow  
Jim Guthrie\*  
Mark Harris\*  
Linda Wright Hartgen  
James "Rick" Just  
Abby Lee\*  
Dave Lent  
James Rucht  
Geoff Schroeder  
Julie VanOrden\*  
Janie Ward-Engelking  
Chuck Winder

*\*Received award every year eligible*  
*Underline indicates first-time recipient*

## GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE

On Monday, January 8 Governor Brad Little delivered his 2024 State of the State and Budget Address. Among many highlights, Governor Little's IDAHO WORKS plan proposes:

- **HISTORIC INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL FACILITIES, PROPERTY TAX RELIEF:** Governor Little proposed the largest ever state investment in school facilities, \$2 billion over 10 years, to ensure all districts have the resources necessary to address unmet capital construction needs and improve student achievement. The \$2 billion is long-term property tax relief. The budget also includes up to \$150 million in NEW property tax relief through the surplus eliminator on top of the hundreds of millions in property tax relief already directed to Idahoans over the past year.
- **LAUNCH:** The IDAHO WORKS plan includes \$75 million to fund the extremely popular Idaho LAUNCH program to strengthen the state's pipeline of skilled workers and create new opportunities for thousands of young Idahoans.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** In recent years, Governor Little and the Legislature have championed historic investments in transportation infrastructure without raising taxes or fees. IDAHO WORKS builds off the investments by adding \$200 million to improve the last one-third of dilapidated bridges in the state and \$50 million to bond for an additional \$800 million for other needed transportation projects.
- **WATER:** Since 2019, Idaho has directed more than \$1 billion to improve water quality and water quantity. IDAHO WORKS adds another \$30 million to ensure a stable water supply and \$6.5 million to continue the state's response to quagga mussels.
- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** As the state marches on in its fight against fentanyl, IDAHO WORKS recommends a new Idaho State Police (ISP) mission to the border to strengthen the state's ability to end human trafficking. The plan also BACKS THE BLUE by investing in new resources for ISP. IDAHO WORKS also protects communities by adding \$25 million for the construction of a secure, forensic mental health facility to care for the dangerously mentally ill.
- **HEALTHCARE:** The IDAHO WORKS plan further implements the state's 10-year plan to increase the number of available doctors in Idaho.
- **FISCAL CONSERVATISM:** Governor Little's IDAHO WORKS plan outlines the most fiscally conservative budget since the Great Recession, bolsters rainy day funds, leaves a surplus, and maintains a structurally balanced budget. Governor Little also announced that related to a federal issue he is signing on as a member of the Governors Debt Council for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

## INWCA HALL OF FAME

The Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association met in Boise this week for the Idaho Noxious Weed Conference. During the event, three individuals were inducted into the INWCA Hall of Fame for their service and assistance to the vegetation management in Idaho:

**Dave Humphreys** has dedicated many years to the business of dealing with noxious weeds in Idaho. He served as the Spray Coordinator for Elmore County from mid-2007 until 2017 at which time he was given the title of Weed Superintendent. In earlier years, Dave faithfully attended the Idaho Association of Noxious Weed Control Superintendents and other educational opportunities representing Elmore County. It's been said, once it gets in your blood you are destined for life to follow this path; Dave has proven that repeatedly. Dave is a team player and served on the Cost Share Review Committee as an at-large member.

**Jeremey Varley** has been working at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture since 2017. Prior to that he worked as the Lemhi County Noxious Weed Superintendent. Jeremey was integral in the response to the invasive quagga mussels in the Snake River. Jeremey devoted a large amount of his time this fall to living in Twin Falls to assist in the response. He was directly involved in the mapping, surveying, calculating the river volume and flow, coordinated with the chemical supplier, conducted water monitoring and much more.

**Chase Youngdahl** is the Bonner County Noxious Weeds Manager. Chase is very active in the local Cooperative Weed Management Area. He also has been on the executive board for the Idaho Association of Noxious Weed Control Superintendents. He is a great colleague and friend to many in the noxious weed management industry.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

It has been indicated by legislators that this coming week will be the start to the review of administrative rules by committees. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a number of rules that will be presented to the Agricultural Affairs committees in the House and Senate. Additionally, Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Brand Board have rules that will be coming before the legislature in the coming weeks that pertain to clients.

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