2015 Legislative Session in Review - Environment and Natural Resources

Representative Ilana Rubel May 27, 2015

Overview

- GMO Labeling / Regulation
- Dredge Mining
- Oil & Gas
- Trespass
- Public Lands
- Bike Paths / Trails
- Memorials / Monuments
- Parks & Recreation funding
- Future Developments?





• HJM 6: Calls upon Congress to preempt state GMO labeling requirements:

WHEREAS, foods produced with GE ingredients are as safe to eat and grow as foods produced without GE ingredients . . .

WHEREAS, GE technology adds desirable traits from nature, establishing the potential for nutritional, health, agronomic and environmental benefits;

- Result transmitted
- HB 114: Barring local government from passing ordinances prohibiting cultivation of GMO seeds
 - Result enacted

Dredge mining



- HB 51 Exempting suction dredge mining from Clean Water Act
 - Result passed to House floor, returned to Committee
- HB 255 Exempting suction dredge mining from state water quality regulations; Criminalizing "interference with mining activities"
 - Result passed to House floor, returned to Committee

Oil and Gas



- Many new regulations addressing definitions, contested cases, fees
- HB 50 Owners of 55% of unit production can unitize, commence drilling
 - Result enacted
- HB 124 Oil & Gas Commission can declare
 BLM to be outside unit so consent not required
 - Result enacted

Trespass

- HB 94 Exempts canal operators from treble damages for tortious tree removal
- Originally exempted anyone with land adjacent to a stream from all trespass laws — opposed by ITLA
 - Result enacted



Public Lands



- HB 265 Created an interstate compact with Western states to pursue the transfer of federal lands
 - Power to levy and assess fees on member states
 - Could withdraw from compact 6 months after enactment of withdrawal legislation
 - Utah is spending \$12M on attempt to take federal land
 - Strong opposition from enviros
 - Result passed House, died in Senate

Bike Paths / Trails



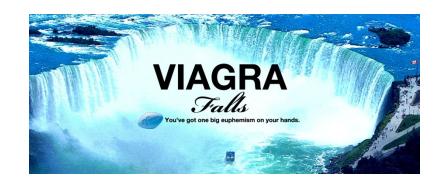
- SB 1044 Strips power of eminent domain for development of trails, paths & greenways
 - Only used twice in Idaho history
 - Strongly opposed by Association of Cities, Enviros, other groups
 - Pushed by Farm Bureau
 - Result enacted

Memorials / Monuments



- HJM 5 declaring that any decisions regarding national monument designation of the Boulder-White Clouds should be made with local collaboration rather than by unilateral federal administrative processes
 - Result transmitted
- HJM 2 opposing any national monument designation in the Caldera area of the Island Park region in eastern Idaho
 - Result transmitted

Parks & Recreation



• SB 1098:

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR) has been directed to find new sources of revenue in order to be more self-sufficient and reduce reliance on the General Fund. Sponsorships and partnerships are a potential revenue source for the Department. The proposed legislation clarifies that the Park and Recreation Board and IDPR staff have the authority to engage in sponsorship and partnership opportunities with private businesses and other organizations.

- Funding for Parks & Rec dropped from \$16.1M in 2009 to \$3.5M in 2015
- Result enacted

Future Developments?

- More public land takeover efforts?
- More attempts to exempt dredge mining?
- Bans on consideration of climate change?
- Ban on local fracking restrictions?
- Evasion of EPA Clean Power Plan?
- Thoughts / Questions?