



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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A Weekly Legislative Report

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STRATEGIC FACILITIES & TRESPASSING

H155 establishes penalties for impeding or trespassing at strategic facilities, including **agricultural sites such as seed and crop storage facilities used to hold raw food or feed products before planting, following harvest, or before processing**—excluding commercial food facilities open to the public. The legislation also applies to other critical infrastructure, including petroleum and aluminum refineries, electrical power generating facilities, water treatment facilities, and mining operations. Individuals found guilty of misdemeanor impeding may face up to six months in jail and a \$10,000 fine, while felony impeding—if damages exceed \$10,000—can result in up to two years in prison and a fine up to \$100,000, not exceeding actual damages. First-time misdemeanor trespassing carries a penalty of up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, whereas a second trespassing offense within five years is a felony punishable by up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. Additionally, individuals or organizations that solicit impeding or trespassing at these facilities may face fines of up to \$100,000.

DEPREDACTIONS

During the 2024 legislative session, the legislature passed H592 that provided a framework for depredation payments for validated and probable **livestock losses from wolves and grizzly bears**. Additionally, it provided funding for nonlethal measures that operators could use to protect their livestock. H82 simply clarifies that possible claims from livestock producers can receive compensation for animals that have been lost to wolves and grizzly bears. There is another rung on the ladder below possible and that is unknown. Unknown results could be deaths from pneumonia or bloat. However, if it falls in the possible category there is a likelihood that the animal was taken by a predator based on the investigation. During this past year, there was a high volume of investigations

that resulted in possible determinations. This legislation would allow those producers to have an opportunity to receive funding for their losses after payments are made for confirmed and probable.

SNAP PROGRAM WAIVER

H109 would require the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to request a waiver from the federal government to be able to **exclude candy, sugar, soft drinks, and energy drinks from SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) as eligible foods. Rep. Redman, out of North Idaho feels that Food Stamps are currently fueling the junk food epidemic, with soda ranking at the number one commodity purchased with food stamps. The author of the legislation feels that these items are adding to childhood obesity, and is working towards a goal of making Idaho healthy again. Those who receive SNAP funds would no longer be able to purchase these items with their SNAP card, but would be able to purchase the items with their personal money. H109 is being held for two weeks while the issue is studied in greater detail. The agriculture industry has not taken an official position on this legislation currently. In efforts to fight stigma, the law changed the name of the federal program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP as of Oct. 1, 2008, and changed the name of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

ADDITIONAL WATER STORAGE IN IDAHO

Joint Memorials are a succinct way for the Idaho Legislature to send a message to Congress. SJM101 urges federal and state agencies to study and develop additional water storage solutions for Idaho, including the potential reconstruction of the **Teton Dam**. The goal is to ensure long-term water security for agriculture, communities, and economic growth in the state. The memorial calls on the **Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Idaho Department of Water Resources**, and other agencies to work together in updating previous studies and exploring

new water storage projects. These efforts will help Idaho address drought conditions, population growth, and future water demands while also supporting hydropower production and recreational opportunities. The **Teton Dam failed on June 3, 1976** and the subsequent draining of the reservoir caused 11 deaths and approximately \$400 million in damages.

[FOOD PRODUCERS GREEN SHEET](#)

Those receiving this weekly Capitol Review can visit the Food Producers of Idaho website at www.foodproducersofidaho.org where daily we work to keep a current Green Sheet of legislation being tracked by the organization in the legislature. The document is referred to as a Green Sheet because the paper delivered to all legislators on Thursday morning is attached to the bright yellow minutes of the organization's meeting on Wednesday of each week and the color of the report is in fact GREEN.

[NEXT WEEK IS A BUSY WEEK FOR IDAHO AG](#)

Notwithstanding the several dozen bills in committees waiting to be heard or those on the reading calendars, there will be quite a bit going on next week in Boise. Several commodity groups are planning to hold board and commission meetings next week in conjunction with the Idaho Ag Summit. The Summit has several important components: Monday evening is the Legislative Strolling Dinner; Tuesday is the presentation of the Pat Takasugi Leadership Award this year on behalf of the Seed Industry; and at noon the Governor's luncheon honoring the recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture.

This year's award winners are the following:

Education/Advocacy

Dean Michael Parrella, Moscow

Environmental Stewardship

Blake Matthews, Oakley

Marketing Innovation

Brent Olmstead, Boise

Technical Innovation

Bill Flory, Culesac

Lifetime Achievement

Celia Gould, Buhl

[U OF I CALS DEAN SEARCH](#)

The Search Advisory Committee, together with Provost and Executive Vice President Torrey Lawrence, are pleased to announce **finalists for the U of I CALS dean position**. Information about the open forums and each finalist is provided in the link below. If you are unable to attend, the open forum will be recorded and posted to this website following the final candidate's session. The recordings and feedback will be accessible until the close of business on Wednesday, March 5. Feedback submitted via this online form is confidential and provided directly to the Provost/EVP.

Visit the site below for more information and biographies on each of the candidates.

<https://www.uidaho.edu/provost/administrative-searches/cals-dean>

[RECEPTION FOR DEAN MICHAEL PARRELLA](#)

In June, Dr. Parrella will be stepping down as Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. A position he has held for the past nine years. Dean Parrella has been very instrumental and influential with legislators, industry and government officials to perpetuate the development of several initiatives that will benefit agriculture for years to come. **As part of the Monday, February 17, Legislative Strolling Supper**, Dean Parrella will be honored for his years of service to Idaho agriculture. We hope you plan to join us and express **your appreciation to Dean Parrella**.

[CONSTITUTIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL](#)

H148 would create a process for a litigant to apply to the **constitutional defense council fund for reimbursement in fighting a precedent setting case against the federal government**. H148 would likely narrow the type of litigants to solely those seeking funds to assist for grazing and water rights litigation cases. The individual seeking funds will have to apply, and the application will have to be approved by the council. The council is made up of the Governor, Attorney General, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Additionally, it is our understanding that this will be forward looking legislation and will only be applied to applications for litigation moving forward.

[CORPORATE TRANSPARENCY ACT](#)

HJM3 is a joint memorial **asking Congress to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act**. The act is burdensome for small businesses and has led to unneeded regulation and red tape of small businesses in Idaho, and court challenges have caused great confusion for implementation. Currently, the act is on hold and businesses are not required to file their beneficial ownership information. Currently, a piece of legislation is making its way through the legislative process on the national level. The Federal House of Representatives passed a bill aiming to give small-business owners much-needed certainty and relief from beneficial ownership reporting. The **one-sentence bill simply postpones the beneficial ownership information reporting deadline for most companies to Jan. 1, 2026**.

Capitol Review is written to inform the clients of Association Management Group (Waitley Associates, Batt Associates, LP Associates & Agriculture, Plum Associates) about activities in the Idaho Legislature and, due to the proprietary nature of the publication, **IS NOT** for distribution to others **without attribution to AMG**.