



**The truth is that every infringement of property rights and every restriction of free enterprise impairs the productivity of labor.**

**Ludwig von Mises**

## **IFBF followed 69 bills during the 2015 session.**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> session of the Idaho Legislature adjourned Sine Die on Saturday, April 11, 2015. The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation closely followed 69 bills and resolutions during the 2015 session. Ninety-three percent of the bills that were actively worked by IFBF either became law or were defeated in harmony with IFBF policies. Listed below are some of the bills followed.

### **H 39 Sales Tax Exemption on Hand Tools**

Allows hand tools valued at less than \$100 to be purchased sales tax free when they are “primarily and directly” used in farming and ranching operations, as well as mining, manufacturing or other fabrication businesses. Primarily and directly used in a farming operation is defined in the code as “the performance of a function reasonably necessary to the operation of the total farming business, including the planting, growing, harvesting and initial storage of crops and other agricultural products and movement of crops and produce from the place of harvest to the place of initial storage.”

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **House Bills 48, 49, 50, 123, 124, 125 Oil and Gas Industry Regulating Policy**

This group of bills will establish a foundation of policies for the developing oil and gas industry within Idaho.

**HB 48-Law, HB 49-Law, HB 50-Law, HB 123-Law, HB 124-Law, HB 125 Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **H 94a Trespass**

Defines that employees of an irrigation district or other water delivery entity may enter that entity’s easement and remove trees and perform other reasonable and necessary maintenance. The bill was amended in the Senate to define level of damages that may be awarded.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **H 109a Tax Treatment on Sale of Grazing Permits or Leases**

Clarifies the sale of a grazing permit or lease will be treated the same as other real property sales for capital gains purposes.

**Law - Idaho Farm Bureau Supports.**

### **H 114 Pure Seed Law**

Local units of government; cities and counties do not have authority to regulate seed production in the State of Idaho and that the

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Idaho Department of Agriculture has that sole responsibility. The Idaho Pure Seed act is amended by defining and adding three activities relating to agricultural seeds- cultivating, producing and processing, and stating regulation of these activities is the exclusive responsibility of the State of Idaho.

**Law - Idaho Farm Bureau supports.**

### **H 133 Livestock Capital Gains Exemption**

Idaho tax law allows a 60 percent tax deduction for capital gains derived from the sale or disposition of tangible personal property used in revenue-producing business and held for at least 12 months. This legislation established consistent treatment of all qualifying capital gains, rather than holding livestock to a different standard.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **House Bills 144, 260, 266, 299 Transfer Fee Increase**

Each of these transportation funding bills included a two cent increase of the transfer fee on all fuel within the state of Idaho. This fee is currently one cent per gallon and is used to fund mitigation and clean-up of leaking petroleum storage tanks. The two cent increase would have applied to all fuel, including off-road fuel used in farming, mining, construction, aviation and home heating. **Farm Bureau opposes** taxing off-road fuel for the purpose of funding transportation infrastructure and maintenance.

**All four bills held in committee.**

### **H 146 Repeal of Gasoline Tax Refund for Off-road Use**

Repeals Idaho Code which allows for a refund of gasoline fuel tax that is used in vehicles not licensed for operation on highways (farm equipment, construction and mining equipment, etc.) The purpose of the bill was to raise money for transportation funding.

**Held in committee - Farm Bureau opposes.**

### **H 197 Degradation Standard within a Mine and Point of Compliance Designation**

Legislation codifies existing rules into Idaho Code. Clarifies the intent and established that drinking water standards shall not be measured within a mine, but that a point of compliance shall be designated and monitored outside of the mine boundary.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **H 265a Federal Lands Transfer Compact**

Enters Idaho into a compact with other western states to work together cooperatively to gather data and develop legal and political strategies to secure the transfer of federal lands to the states.

**Held in Senate Resources Committee - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **House Joint Memorial 1 Regulation Freedom Amendment**

Urges the United States Congress to propose the Regulation Freedom Amendment to the US Constitution for ratification by several states. The Regulation Freedom Amendment provides that whenever one quarter of either the U.S. House or Senate declares in writing their opposition to a proposed federal rule, it shall take a majority vote of Congress to implement the regulation.

**Held in Senate State Affairs Committee – Farm Bureau Supports.**

### **House Joint Memorial 2 Island Park Caldera Area Memorial**

Opposes the President's use of the U.S. Antiquities Act to designate the Island Park Caldera as a U.S. National Monument.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **House Joint Memorial 5 Boulder-White Clouds Memorial**

Message to President and U.S. Congress to engage in a collaborative effort with Idahoans and urges the President to not unilaterally name the Boulder-White Clouds as a National Monument.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

### **House Joint Memorial 6 Food labeling, genetic engineering**

This is supporting adoption of federal standards for labeling genetically engineered food. At the federal level, legislation to establish federal labeling standards for genetically engineered foods has been introduced.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

**House Joint Memorial 8 Interstate, heavy vehicles**

Asked Congress to enact pending legislation which would allow 129,000 pound trucks on the federal highway system in southern Idaho. Currently these trucks are allowed on all highways in neighboring states and on certain state highways in Idaho.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

**House Joint Memorial 9 Sage Grouse Management Efforts**

A Joint Memorial asking the US Senate and House of Representatives to recognize and encourage state primacy in the long term management and protection of sage grouse and its habitat while protecting state economic interests, educational funding from state lands, and valid existing rights including private property rights.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

**House Joint Memorial 11 Save Our Dams**

Encourages the U.S. Congress to value and protect the dams on the Columbia – Snake River system. The memorial recognizes the sovereignty of Idaho for waters within the state and the multiple use benefits the dams provide including: navigation, transportation, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, hydro power generation, flood control and irrigation.

**Adopted - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1044 Eminent Domain Restriction**

Prohibits state or local governments from using eminent domain to build trails, paths, greenways, or other recreational ways; unless they are adjacent to a highway, road or street. The legislation does not prohibit building paths or trails, but they must be done on a willing buyer/ willing seller basis. This provides greater protection for private property owners.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1062 Direct Primary Care Act**

Clarifies that Direct Primary Care agreements are not insurance and therefore are not subject to regulation by the Idaho Department of Insurance. Direct Primary Care allows consumers to enter into an agreement directly with a doctor or dentist for most routine services for a set fee. Patients would still purchase an insurance policy for catastrophic or otherwise unforeseen health care needs. This provides an alternative health care delivery system with lower costs since the insurance companies are removed from the equation.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1073 Aquatic Noxious Weeds**

Provides statutory clarity for the Director of Agriculture's authority over research for biocontrol of noxious aquatic weeds. This will allow research to be done more efficiently.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1074 Honey Commission**

This bill made necessary updates to the Idaho Honey Advertising Commission statute. One of the changes was dropping the word "advertising" from the title. Production regions were also eliminated.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1075 Inmate Labor**

This legislation clarifies that ag employers who hire inmates through the Idaho Department of Corrections to perform agriculture labor are not required to provide worker compensation or unemployment insurance to those inmates as intended in the original 2014 legislation.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1100 Authorities and Duties of a Watermaster**

Authorizes a watermaster to administer the water district and enhancement of water supply. Water users may by resolution, authorize the watermaster to coordinate or provide weather modification projects involving cloud seeding efforts designed to increase water supplies by enhancing natural precipitation.

**Law - Farm Bureau supports.**

**S 1111 Minimum wage**

This legislation increases the current Idaho minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25/hour on July 1, 2015 and \$9.25/hour on July 1,

2016. Adjustments are also made for tipped and seasonal employees. Beginning 2017 this legislation calls for an annual wage adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index.

**Held in Senate State Affairs - Farm Bureau opposes.**

**S 1137 Sale or Transfer of Property Held by an Idaho Public Utility**

Replaces the current standard that a sale or transfer of a public utility property “is consistent with the public interest” to a standard that requires “will better serve the public utility’s customers and is in” the public interest.

**Held in Senate State Affairs - Farm Bureau supports.**