

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN BOB DEPRATU**, on March 6, 2003 at 8 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Bob DePratu, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Bob Story Jr., Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)  
Sen. John C. Bohlinger (R)  
Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)  
Sen. Jim Elliott (D)  
Sen. Bill Glaser (R)  
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)  
Sen. Walter McNutt (R)  
Sen. Mike Taylor (R)  
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch  
Shirley Herrin, Committee Secretary

**Video-taped Committee:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. A video-taped recording of the meeting is available from the Montana Historical Society.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 224, 2/25/2003; SB 466,  
2/25/2003  
Executive Action: None.

**HEARING ON SB 224****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

8:01 **SEN. SAM KITZENBERG, SD 48, Glasgow**, "Sales tax on goods for property tax relief, universities, and teacher pay". **EXHIBIT (tas47a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

8:29 Tom Bilodeau, MEA/MFT **EXHIBIT (tas47a02)**  
8:38 Sarah Cobler, Associated Students of the University of Montana - Missoula, Bozeman and Dillon campuses.  
8:43 Will Hammerquist, Associated Students of MSU -Bozeman **EXHIBIT (tas47a03)**. He also submitted a packet of letters from students in support of SB 224. **EXHIBIT (tas47a04)**  
8:52 Jeremy Seidlitz, Associated Students - Billings, Havre  
8:54 David Oberembt, Student  
8:54 Tricia Patten, Graduate, University of Montana  
8:55 Webb Brown, MT Chamber of Commerce. He stated Mary Whittinghill, MT Taxpayers Assoc. wished to go on record in support of SB 224.  
9:00 Kelsie Eggensperger, 4th generation University family  
9:02 Bill Johnston, University of Montana Campuses

**Opponents' Testimony:**

9:02 Gene Fenderson, MT Progressive Labor Caucus  
9:09 Don Judge, Teamsters Local # 190, Billings

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

9:18 Begin  
9:23 **SEN. BOB STORY** questioned Dan Dodds, Dept of Revenue  
9:56 Ended  
38 min Time elapsed

**Closing by Sponsor:**

9:57 **SEN. KITZENBERG** closed on SB 224.

**CHAIRMAN DE PRATU** called a short break.

10:16 The hearing re-convened.

**HEARING ON SB 466****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:17 **SEN. JOHN BOHLINGER, SD 7, Billings** "Sales tax to reduce income and property taxes". **EXHIBIT (tas47a05)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:34 Webb Brown, MT Chamber of Commerce  
10:36 Tom Bilodeau, MEA/MFT  
10:39 Donald Harr, Physician, Billings, Self  
10:40 Brad Griffin, MT Retail Association **EXHIBIT (tas47a06)**  
10:41 Jim Smith, MT Library Assoc. and MT County Attorney's  
Assoc.  
10:50 Carl Schweitzer, Bozeman and Kalispell Chambers

**Opponents' Testimony:**

10:51 Gene Fenderson, MT Progressive Labor Caucus  
10:56 Don Judge, Teamsters Local #190

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

11:01 Begin  
11:07 **SEN. TOOLE** questioned Jim Standaert, Legislative Fiscal  
Division.  
11:26 Ended  
25 min Time elapsed.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

11:26 **SEN. BOHLINGER** closed on SB 466.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:30 A.M.

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SEN. BOB DEPRATU, Chairman

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SHIRLEY HERRIN, Secretary

BD/SH

**EXHIBIT (tas47aad)**