

Montana State Senate



The Big Sky Country

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SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 3/2/05
BILL NO. SB258
(proposed)

COMMITTEES:
NATURAL RESOURCES - CHAIR
BUSINESS, LABOR & ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

February 23, 2005

Senate Natural Resources Committee Members,

This is a beginning draft for your review, input, and comments on a committee bill to address SB 258. The bill concerns coal bed methane, crude oil, and natural gas exploration in Montana.

I want you to use the bill draft to please write down suggestions and bring them to committee meeting when we return from our mid-session break. The suggestion on doing a study in EQC was a thought. I would consider a committee where public and development would be represented, possibly an ad hoc or Governor's committee. Funding for a good committee study for 16 month could come from R.I.T. money, possible coal board revenues. I felt that EQC funding may not allow enough meetings.

Your input is important. Have a good break and enjoy being with family and friends.

**** Joint Resolution No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the *****

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana requesting an interim study of possible oil and gas regulations, with specific attention to coal bed methane development including possible regulations related to bonding and reclamation.

WHEREAS, the development of coal bed methane producing wells is widely expected to increase dramatically in Montana in the coming years; and

WHEREAS, the increased development of coal bed methane producing wells would bring additional revenue to cities, counties, and the state; and

WHEREAS, the increased development of coal bed methane wells would impact the soils, vegetation, and waters utilized and enjoyed by the residents of cities, counties, and the state; and

WHEREAS, Montana law provides for bonding and reclamation for other industries that use natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That the Environmental Quality Council prioritize an interim study of possible oil and gas regulations, with specific attention to coal bed methane development.

Unofficial Draft Copy

As of: February 22, 2005 (1:36pm)

LC1679

(2) That the study examine possible bonding requirements, including but not limited to how bonds would be determined, administered and modified.

(3) That the study examine possible reclamation requirements including but not limited to reclamation of soils, vegetation, and surface and ground water.

(4) That the study examine the relationship between surface owners and the owners of mineral rights including but not limited to the role of the surface owner in determining possible reclamation requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions, comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

- END -

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