

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Call to Order:** by Chairman Edward B. Butcher, on March 20, 2007  
at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Edward B. Butcher, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Carol Lambert, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Shannon Augare (D)  
Rep. Scott Boggio (R)  
Rep. Julie French (D)  
Rep. Ralph Heinert (R)  
Rep. Teresa K. Henry (D)  
Rep. Llew Jones (R)  
Rep. Jim Keane (D)  
Rep. Krayton Kerns (R)  
Rep. Bruce Malcolm (R)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Dan Villa (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Mary Caferro  
Rep. Mike Jopek  
Rep. Scott Mendenhall  
Rep. Diane Rice

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Dee Barfknecht, Committee Secretary  
Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: SJR 13, SB 328, SB 479, SB 544  
Executive Action: SJR 13, SB 328, SB 479, SB 544

---

**HEARING ON SB 479**

---

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:34 Sen. Jim Elliott (D), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 479, Content criteria for labeling products containing Montana huckleberries.

**[EXHIBIT \(agh59a01\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:31 Al Hedman, Larchwood Huckleberry Farm Owner

**[EXHIBIT \(agh59a02\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:11:22 Rep. Lambert  
00:11:48 Mr. Hedman  
00:11:54 Rep. Ross  
00:12:54 Sen. Elliott  
00:13:02 Rep. Malcolm  
00:13:18 Mr. Hedman  
00:14:27 Rep. Malcolm  
00:15:40 Mr. Hedman  
00:15:53 Rep. Malcolm  
00:17:13 Sen. Elliott  
00:17:23 Chairman Butcher  
00:17:39 Mr. Hedman  
00:18:22 Chairman Butcher  
00:19:57 Mr. Hedman

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:20:32 Sen. Elliott

**HEARING ON SB 544**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:22:38 Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 544, Montana certified natural beef cattle marketing program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:26:10 Jeremy Seidlitz, Montana Cattlemens Association

**EXHIBIT (agh59a03)**

00:27:25 Eric Somerfeld, Montana Farmers Union

00:28:41 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved Farm Economics

00:29:08 Joel Clairmont, Department of Agriculture

**EXHIBIT (agh59a04)**

00:31:07 Dave Germann, Rancher

00:33:28 Wally Congdon, Big Sky Natural Beef

**EXHIBIT (agh59a05)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:39:46 George Harris, Acting Executive Officer to the Board of  
Livestock

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:41:27 Rep. Ross  
00:42:20 Sen. Hansen  
00:42:38 Rep. Ross  
00:42:44 Sen. Hansen  
00:43:21 Rep. Kerns  
00:43:45 Sen. Hansen  
00:43:52 Rep. Kerns  
00:45:02 Mr. Congdon  
00:46:08 Rep. Kerns  
00:46:16 Mr. Congdon  
00:46:26 Rep. Kerns  
00:46:39 Mr. Congdon  
00:47:27 Chairman Butcher  
00:47:49 Rep. Kerns  
00:48:13 Rep. Lambert  
00:48:48 Sen. Hansen  
00:49:22 Rep. Windy Boy  
00:50:05 Mr. Harris  
00:50:14 Mr. Clairmont  
00:52:10 Rep. Windy Boy  
00:52:44 Mr. Clairmont  
00:52:56 Chairman Butcher  
00:53:14 Mr. Clairmont  
00:53:19 Rep. Jones  
00:53:58 Sen. Hansen  
00:54:23 Rep. Jones  
00:54:28 Sen. Hansen

00:55:20 Chairman Butcher  
00:55:53 Sen. Hansen  
00:56:00 Rep. Jones  
00:56:35 Chairman Butcher  
00:56:52 Rep. Jones  
00:57:19 Rep. Malcolm  
00:58:20 Mr. Congdon  
00:58:59 Rep. Malcolm  
00:59:04 Mr. Congdon  
01:01:07 Rep. Malcolm  
01:02:12 Chairman Butcher  
01:02:19 Mr. Congdon  
01:02:53 Rep. Malcolm  
01:03:20 Mr. Congdon

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:04:25 Sen. Hansen

---

**HEARING ON SJR 13**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:05:33 Sen. Frank Smith (D), SD 16, opened the hearing on SJR 13, Resolution for interim study on value-added agriculture.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:08:18 Crissie McMullan, Policy Researcher for Grow Montana  
**EXHIBIT (agh59a06)**

01:11:48 David McClure, President, Montana Farm Bureau  
01:13:32 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stock Growers Association  
01:15:02 Eric Somerfeld, Montana Farm Bureau  
01:16:01 Linda Davis, Montana Cattle Women  
01:16:20 Gary MacDonald, Roosevelt County Commissioner  
01:16:51 Jim Barngrover, Alternative Energy Resources Organization

**EXHIBIT (agh59a07)**

01:20:03 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved Farm Economics  
01:20:44 Gary Amestoy, Richland County Economic Development Corporation  
01:21:58 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:22:27 Joel Clairmont, Department of Agriculture

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:22:56 Rep. Lambert

01:23:29 Mr. Barngrover

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:23:50 Sen. Smith

**HEARING ON SB 328****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:25:22 Sen. Donald Steinbeisser (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 328, Montana-produced foods to state institutions/optional procurement exception.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:28:45 Crissie McMullan, Policy Researcher for Grow Montana  
[EXHIBIT \(agh59a08\)](#)

01:33:08 Linda Gryczan, Grow Montana Representative  
[EXHIBIT \(agh59a09\)](#)

01:35:48 David McClure, President, Montana Farm Bureau

01:36:09 Eric Somerfeld, Montana Farm Bureau

01:37:07 Kevin Moore, Representative AmeriCorps Vista Volunteers  
[EXHIBIT \(agh59a10\)](#)

01:40:26 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stock Growers Association

01:41:29 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved Farm Economics

01:42:41 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

01:42:58 Wally Congdon, Big Sky Natural Beef

01:46:54 Linda Davis, Montana Cattle Women

01:47:12 Jim Barngrover, Alternative Energy Resources  
Organization

01:49:26 Sen. Frank Smith

01:50:22 Gary Amestoy, Richland County Economic Development  
Corporation

01:50:57 Rick Moore, Northern Plains Resource Council

01:52:04 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Dr. Neva Hassanein, Associate  
Professor, The University of Montana

[EXHIBIT \(agh59a11\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:55:25 Brad Sanders, Department of Administration

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:55:46 Sen. Steinbeisser

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJR 13**

01:56:30 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Keane moved that **SJR 13 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0. Reps. Mendenhall, Rice, Heinert, Boggio, Jopek, Caferro and Villa voted by proxy. Rep. Lambert will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 328**

01:57:41 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Keane moved that **SB 328 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0. Reps. Mendenhall, Rice, Heinert, Boggio, Jopek, Caferro and Villa voted by proxy. Rep. Jones will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 479**

01:58:43 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Lambert moved that **SB 479 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0. Reps. Mendenhall, Rice, Heinert, Boggio, Jopek, Caferro and Villa voted by proxy. Rep. Augare will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 544**

01:59:38 **Motion:** Rep. Lambert moved that **SB 544 BE CONCURRED IN.**

01:59:46 **Motion:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **SB 544 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT (agh59a12)**

**Discussion:**

02:03:31 Rep. Windy Boy

02:00:14 **Vote:** Motion that **SB 544 BE AMENDED** carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0. Reps. Mendenhall, Rice, Heinert, Boggio, Jopek, Caferro and Villa voted by proxy.

02:00:36 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that **SB 544 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, 18-0. Reps. Mendenhall, Rice, Heinert, Boggio, Jopek, Caferro and Villa voted by proxy. Rep. Jones will carry the bill.

After the meeting Chairman Butcher requested that SB 544 not be reported out due to another amendment that will be drafted. We will reconsider the bill next week with the additional amendment.

On March 23, 2007, the committee released the Standing Committee Report. Therefore, the report is included in this set of minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:02:00 Adjournment

---

REP. EDWARD B. BUTCHER, Chairman

---

DEE BARFKNECHT, Secretary

EB/db

Additional Exhibits:

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([agh59aad.pdf](#))**