

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN KEN (KIM) HANSEN**, on February 23, 2007 at 3:30 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen, Chairman (D)  
Sen. Keith Bales (R)  
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)  
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)  
Sen. Gerald Pease (D)  
Sen. Frank Smith (D)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Carol Andersen, Committee Secretary  
Doug Sternberg, 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 & Date Posted: SJ 13, 2/19/2007; SB 544,  
2/19/2007;  
Executive Action: SJ 13, SB 544

**HEARING ON SJ 13**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:53 **SEN. FRANK SMITH (D), SD 16**, opened the hearing on **SJ 13**, Resolution for interim study on value-added agriculture.

**Proponents:**

00:03:17 Linda Gryczan, Grow Montana

00:04:22 Katie Kassmier, Montana Farmers Union

00:05:35 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

00:06:15 Errol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:07:51 Gary Amestoy, Richland Economic Development Organization

00:09:27 Carla Johnson, Montana Cattle Women, Inc.

**Opponents:** None.

**Informational Testimony:**

00:10:02 Joel Clairmont, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture

00:10:37 Wally Congdon

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:57 Sen. Smith

00:14:25 Relinquished Chair to Vice Chair Frank Smith

**HEARING ON SB 544**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:51 **SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN (D), SD 17**, opened the hearing on **SB 544**, Montana certified beef natural marketing program.

**EXHIBIT (ags41a01)**

**Proponents:**

**EXHIBIT (ags41a02)**

00:19:08 Jerry Seidlitz, Montana Cattlemens Association  
00:20:15 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)  
00:21:27 Gary Burnett  
00:23:06 Rock Ringling, Ringling Ranch  
00:24:21 Wally Congdon

**EXHIBIT (ags41a03)**

**EXHIBIT (ags41a04)**

00:35:36 Katie Kassmier, Montana Farmers Union  
00:36:51 Hal Harper, Governor's Office and the Department of  
Economic Development  
00:39:16 Dave Germann, Montana Specialty Sausage Meat Market  
00:43:03 Joel Clairmont, Deputy Director, Department of  
Agriculture

**EXHIBIT (ags41a05)**

**Opponents:**

00:45:29 Errol Rice, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
00:54:41 Carla Johnson, Montana Cattle Women, Inc.

**Informational Testimony**

00:55:53 George Harris, Executive Director, Board of Livestock

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:58:51 Sen. Bales to Wally Congdon  
01:06:19 Sen. Bales to Sen. Hansen  
01:08:30 Sen. Bales to Wally Congdon

01:16:09 Sen. Larson to Errol Rice

01:18:53 Sen. Bales to George Harris

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:21:44 Sen. Hansen

01:26:08 Chair resumed

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 13**

01:26:38 **Motion:** SEN. HANSEN moved that SJ 13 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

01:26:52 **Motion:** SEN. BRUEGGEMAN CALLED THE QUESTION ON SJ 13.

01:27:53 **Discussion:**

01:27:18 Sen. Brueggeman withdrew the question

01:27:47 Doug Sternberg, LSD

01:28:25 **Motion:** SEN. HANSEN moved CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT.

**Discussion:**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. BRUEGGEMAN CALLED THE QUESTION ON  
CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT. Motion carried unanimously  
by voice vote.

**Discussion:**

**Motion/Vote:** SEN. SMITH moved that SJ 13 DO PASS AS  
AMENDED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote 7-0.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 544**

01:29:26 **Motion:** SEN. HANSEN moved that SB 544 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**

01:30:34 Sen. Bales

01:30:40 Doug Sternberg

01:31:40 Sen. Bales  
01:32:31 Sen. Hansen  
01:33:01 Doug Sternberg  
01:35:47 Sen. Steinbeisser  
01:36:20 Sen. Pease to Sen. Bales  
01:36:30 Sen. Bales  
01:37:30 Sen. Pease  
01:38:00 Doug Sternberg  
01:38:13 Sen. Bales  
01:39:02 Sen. Hansen  
01:40:36 Sen. Smith to Joel Clairmont

01:43:38 **Motion:** SEN. STEINBEISSER moved that CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED.

Discussion:

01:44:13 Sen. Bales  
01:44:19 Doug Sternberg  
01:46:08 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
01:46:18 **Motion:** SEN. SMITH moved that SB 544 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

Discussion:

01:46:33 Doug Sternberg  
01:47:26 Sen. Hansen  
01:47:36 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. HANSEN moved that SB054402.ADS BE ADOPTED. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
01:47:54 **Motion:** SEN. SMITH moved that SB 544 DO PASS AS AMENDED.

**Discussion:**

01:48:07 Sen. Bales

01:49:09 **Motion/Vote: SEN. BALES moved that CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED.**

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**Discussion:**

01:49:20 Doug Sternberg

01:49:36 **Motion/Vote: SEN. BRUEGGEMAN CALLED THE QUESTION ON CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENT. Motion failed 3-4 by voice vote.**

01:51:27 Sen. Bales to Dave Germann

01:53:05 Sen. Bales

01:53:58 Sen. Larson

01:54:24 Sen. Bales closes

01:55:48 **Motion/Vote: SEN. BALES moved that SB 544 DO PASS AS AMENDED. Motion carried 6-1 by voice vote with SEN. BRUEGGEMAN voting no.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:35 P.M.

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SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN, Chairman

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CAROL ANDERSEN, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([ags41aad.pdf](#))**