

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN VICKI COCCHIARELLA**, on February 8, 2007 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Vicki Cocchiarella, Chairman (D)
Sen. Joe Balyeat (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Lane L. Larson (D)
Sen. Don Ryan (D)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)
Sen. Carolyn Squires (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Joseph (Joe) Tropila (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Pat Murdo, 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: SB 321, 2/6/2007; SB 369, 1/31/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:20:38 Chairwoman Cocchiarella

HEARING ON SB 321

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:21:40 **SEN. JOHN BRUEGGEMAN (R), SD 6**, opened the hearing on **SB 321**, Authorize business and industrial development corporations.

Proponents:

00:22:52 Jeff Batton, Marketing Director, Alaska Growth Capital

EXHIBIT (bus28a01)

EXHIBIT (bus28a02)

00:38:06 Andy Poole, Department of Commerce (DOC)

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:39:11 Chris Olson, Department of Administration (D Of A)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:39:40 Sen. Balyeat to Andy Poole, DOC

00:40:37 Sen. Balyeat to Sen. Brueggeman

00:41:43 Sen. Balyeat to Jeff Batton, Alaska Growth Capital

00:44:05 Sen. Tropila to Sen. Brueggeman

00:44:51 Sen. Esp to Chris Olson, D of A

00:46:38 Sen. Brown to Sen. Brueggeman

00:48:08 Sen. Jackson to Jeff Batton, Alaska Growth Capital

00:52:54 Sen. Steinbeisser to Jeff Batton, Alaska Growth Capital

00:55:00 Sen. Cocchiarella to Jeff Batton, Alaska Growth Capital

Closing by Sponsor:

00:57:57 Sen. Brueggeman

HEARING ON SB 369

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:02:13 **SEN. FRANK SMITH (D), SD 16**, opened the hearing on **SB 369**, Revise PSC jurisdiction over rural cooperatives.

Proponents:

01:04:24 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

EXHIBIT (bus28a03)

01:11:33 Ken Sugden, General Manager, Flathead Electric Cooperative

EXHIBIT (bus28a04)

01:21:41 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

EXHIBIT (bus28a05)

Opponents:

01:25:09 Mark Baker, Attorney, Bresnan Communications

EXHIBIT (bus28a06)

01:35:20 Mark Staples, Montana Cable Operators' Association

01:44:56 Sean O'Donnell, Vice President, Bresnan Communications

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:48:23 Sen. Cocchiarella to Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

01:50:10 Sen. Cocchiarella to Mark Baker, Bresnan

01:53:22 Sen. Balyeat to Mark Staples, Montana Cable Operators' Association

01:55:18 Sen. Balyeat to Mark Baker, Bresnan

01:55:59 Sen. Tropila to Ken Sugden, Flathead Electric Cooperative

01:59:20 Sen. Tropila to Sean O'Donnell, Bresnan

02:00:55 Sen. Jackson to Sean O'Donnell, Bresnan

02:03:12 Sen. Larson to Sean O'Donnell, Bresnan

02:06:54 Sen. Balyeat to Ken Sugden, Flathead Electric Cooperative

02:08:27 Sen. Balyeat to Mark Baker, Bresnan

02:10:17 Sen. Balyeat to Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

02:12:37 Sen. Balyeat to Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

02:13:52 Sen. Brown to Ken Sugden, Flathead Electric Cooperative

02:16:03 Sen. Brown to Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

02:18:28 Sen. Jackson to Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Closing by Sponsor:

02:20:55 Sen. Smith

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:10 A.M.

SEN. VICKI COCCHIARELLA, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

VC/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([bus28aad.pdf](#))