

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chairman Mike Milburn, on January 28, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Milburn, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Anders Blewett (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Tom McGillvray (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Shirley Chovanak, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, 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: HB 44, 1/15/2009; HB 139,
1/15/2009; HB 140, 1/15/2009;
HJR 4, 1/15/2009; HJR 7, 1/15/2009

Executive Action: None

00:00:00 Chairman Milburn

HEARING ON HJ 4

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:25 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HJ 4, Urge authority for gubernatorial wildfire fuel hazard crisis.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:19:39 Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County Commissioner and Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
00:20:58 Cary Whyte, Citizens for Balanced Use, Bozeman
00:22:45 Richard VanAuken, Fire Chief, Teton County
00:24:18 Robert Johnson, Smurfit Stone Container
00:26:11 Jerome Anderson, Anderson Forest Products
00:31:02 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association
00:32:36 Ed Melcher,
00:34:21 Ellen Simpson, Montana Wood Products Association
00:35:35 Chad DeLong, Missoula Economic Development Corporation
00:36:57 Brian Ringle, Resident, Georgetown
00:38:14 Pat McKelvey, Board Member, Fire Safe Montana
00:39:38 Rep. Hendrick, HD 14

Opponents' Testimony:

00:41:01 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon
00:44:00 Ann Hedges, Montana Environment Center

Informational Testimony:

00:47:33 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:51:58 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:52:43 Rep. Vincent
00:53:45 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:54:32 Rep. Vincent
00:55:57 Rep. Pomnichowski
00:56:05 Rep. Vincent
00:56:17 Rep. Reinhart
00:56:31 Rep. Vincent
00:56:57 Rep. Reinhart
00:57:21 Rep. Vincent
00:57:55 Rep. McGillvray

00:58:07 Ms. Ellis

Closing by Sponsor:

00:58:25 Rep. Vincent

HEARING ON HJ 7

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:59:18 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HJ 7, Urge modification of federal wildfire policy.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:01:54 Mr. McGinley

01:02:18 Mr. VanAuken

01:03:25 Mr. Whyte

01:04:41 Mr. Johnson

01:05:00 Mr. Anderson

01:07:07 Ms. Simpson

01:07:50 Mr. Todhunter

01:08:35 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors

Opponents' Testimony:

01:10:28 Ms. Ellis

Informational Testimony:

01:12:43 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:15:22 Rep. Dickenson

01:15:59 Mr. Harrington

01:17:08 Rep. Dickenson

01:17:38 Mr. Harrington

01:18:16 Rep. Dickenson

01:18:21 Rep. Vincent

01:19:23 Rep. Hands

01:20:13 Mr. Harrington

01:23:04 Rep. Hands

01:24:41 Mr. Harrington

01:27:00 Rep. McGillvray

01:27:22 Ms. Ellis

01:28:13 Rep. McGillvray

01:28:38 Ms. Ellis

01:28:53 Rep. McGillvray

01:29:14 Ms. Ellis

Closing by Sponsor:

01:29:44 Rep. Vincent

HEARING ON HB 44

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:32:06 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on HB 44, Revise DNRC participation in federal forest management planning.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:33:28 Ron Olfert, Montanans for Property Rights, Sanders Natural Resource Council

EXHIBIT (nah20a01)

01:38:33 Mr. McGinley

01:40:51 Rhoda Cargill, Chairman, Lincoln County Natural Resource Council

EXHIBIT (nah20a02)

01:48:49 Ms. Simpson

01:49:08 Mr. Todhunter

01:49:21 Terry Caldwell, Sanders County Natural Resource

01:51:37 Mr. Harrington

EXHIBIT (nah20a03)

01:55:39 Robert Johnson, AFL-CIO and Smurfit Stone Container

01:56:00 Mr. Whyte

01:58:44 Mr. DeLong

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

02:01:50 Mr. Anderson

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:04:15 Rep. Belcourt

02:04:36 Rep. Vincent

02:05:52 Rep. Reinhart

02:06:07 Rep. Vincent

02:06:40 Rep. Reinhart

02:06:48 Rep. Vincent

02:06:52 Rep. Reinhart

02:07:21 Rep. Vincent
02:09:10 Rep. Reinhart
02:09:15 Rep. Vincent
02:09:21 Rep. Hoven
02:09:39 Ms. Cargill

Closing by Sponsor:

02:12:01 Rep. Vincent

HEARING ON HB 139

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:12:44 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on
HB 139, DNRC intervention authority in federal forest
management projects.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:13:58 Mr. Olfert
02:14:42 Mr. Todhunter
02:19:16 Cory Swanson, Citizens for Balanced Use
02:22:29 Mr. McGinley
02:22:42 Ms. Cargill
02:24:32 Ms. Simpson
02:26:23 Mr. Harrington
02:27:09 Mr. McKelvey
02:27:56 Mr. DeLong
02:28:21 Mr. Anderson

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:29:12 Rep. Reinhart
02:29:32 Rep. Vincent
02:30:05 Rep. Reinhart
02:30:33 Rep. Vincent
02:30:10 Rep. Reinhart
02:31:19 Rep. Vincent
02:31:21 Rep. Reinhart
02:31:53 Rep. Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

02:33:00 Rep. Vincent

HEARING ON HB 140

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:35:10 Rep. Chas Vincent (R), HD 2, opened the hearing on
HB 140, Increase excess sustained yield authority for
forest health.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:36:56 Mr. Whyte
02:38:12 Mr. Todhunter
02:39:41 Mr. McGinley
02:40:04 Mr. DeLong
02:40:19 Ms. Simpson
02:40:56 Kevin Smith, Forester and Logger

Opponents' Testimony:

02:41:18 Ms. Hedges
02:49:37 Ms. Ellis

Informational Testimony:

02:50:24 Tom Schultz, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:50:50 Rep. Miller
02:51:13 Mr. Schultz
02:52:09 Rep. Miller
02:52:22 Mr. Schultz
02:52:57 Rep. Cohenour
02:53:27 Mr. Schultz
02:53:56 Rep. Cohenour
02:53:58 Mr. Schultz
02:54:09 Rep. Dickenson
02:54:28 Rep. Vincent
02:54:36 Rep. Hands
02:54:54 Mr. Schultz
02:56:14 Rep. Hands
02:56:37 Mr. Schultz
02:57:25 Rep. Hands
02:57:48 Mr. Schultz

02:58:49 Rep. Mendenhall
03:00:03 Mr. Schultz
03:02:32 Rep. Mendenhall
03:02:50 Mr. Schultz
03:03:14 Rep. Hoven
03:03:35 Mr. Schultz
03:04:31 Rep. Hoven
03:04:41 Mr. Schultz

Closing by Sponsor:

03:05:54 Rep. Vincent
03:07:09 Chairman Milburn

ADJOURNMENT

03:08:00 Adjournment

SHIRLEY CHOVANAK, Secretary

SC

Additional Exhibits

[EXHIBIT \(nah20a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nah20a05\)](#)

Additional Documents:

[EXHIBIT \(nah20aad.pdf\)](#)