

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Alan Olson, on January 11, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Alan Olson, Chair (R)  
Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Shannon Augare (D)  
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)  
Sen. Bob Lake (R)  
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)  
Sen. Jason Priest (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. Kendall Van Dyk (D)  
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jeff Essmann  
Sen. Edward Walker

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch  
Liane Taylor, Committee Secretary

**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:** Bill hearings on SB 109, 1/07/2011; SB 96, 1/05/2011;  
SB 65, 1/05/2011; SB 105, 1/05/2011

**HEARING ON SB 109****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:13 Sen. Debby Barrett (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 109, Revise definition of eligible renewable resources to include hydroelectric power.

**EXHIBIT(ens08a01)****Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:24 Steve Jennings, Beaverhead Outdoors Association (BOA)  
00:04:15 Doug Hardy, representing Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)  
00:04:35 David Hoffman, representing PPL Montana, LLC (PPL)  
00:05:36 Patrick Heffernan, representing Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:06:18 John Fitzpatrick, representing Northwestern Energy (NWE)  
00:11:19 Van Jamison, representing Gaelectric  
0:13:20 Kyla Wiens, representing Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
00:15:40 Kate French, representing the Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)  
00:17:56 Matt Leow, representing the Montana Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG)  
00:19:34 Sarah Cobler, representing the Montana Conservation Voters  
00:21:52 Janet Ellis, representing Montana Audubon

**Informational Testimony:**

00:22:18 Brad Molnar, Vice-Chair Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:24:50 Senator Erickson  
00:25:35 Senator Barrett  
00:26:09 Senator Erickson  
00:26:24 Senator Barrett  
00:26:40 Senator Lake  
00:27:04 Senator Barrett  
00:27:22 Senator Lake  
00:27:27 Van Jamison, Gaelectric  
00:28:39 Senator Lake  
00:29:40 Van Jamison  
00:29:51 Senator Moss  
00:29:59 John Fitzpatrick, NWE  
00:32:58 Senator Moss  
00:34:20 Matt Leow, MPIRG  
00:34:56 Sen Van Dyk  
00:35:43 Senator Barrett  
00:35:55 Senator VanDyk  
00:36:15 Senator Barrett  
00:36:37 Senator Vincent  
00:37:07 Doug Hardy, MECA  
00:37:34 Senator Vincent  
00:38:16 David Hoffman, PPL  
00:40:38 Senator Jackson

00:41:49 Steve Jennings, BOA  
00:42:47 Senator Jackson  
00:43:01 Steve Jennings  
00:43:47 Senator Jackson  
00:43:54 Steve Jennings  
00:44:19 Senator Jackson  
00:45:21 Sarah Cobler

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:45:49 Senator Barrett

**HEARING ON SB 96**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:49:09 Sen. Kim Gillan (D), SD 24, opened the hearing on SB 96, Revise the Coal Board membership.

**[EXHIBIT\(ens08a02\)](#)**

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:54:52 Joe Navasio, representing self from Colstrip  
00:59:34 Senator Olson

**Informational Testimony:**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:59:46 Senator Moss  
01:00:36 Senator Gillan  
01:03:00 Senator Augare

**HEARING ON SB 65**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:04:05 Sen. Verdell Jackson (R), SD 5, opened the hearing on SB 65, Modify process for revising the state energy policy.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:09:06 Senator Jackson

[EXHIBIT\(ens08a03\)](#)

**HEARING ON SB 105**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:11:45 Sen. Jason Priest (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 105, Eliminating the energy development and demonstration grant programs.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:16:38 George Matthews, representing the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:19:20 Senator Lake

01:19:45 George Matthews, DEQ

01:19:52 Senator Moss

01:20:15 Senator Priest

01:20:38 Senator Moss

01:20:53 George Matthews

01:21:09 Senator Erickson

01:22:22 Senator Priest

01:22:43 Senator Tropila

01:23:01 George Matthews

01:23:35 Senator Tropila

01:23:55 George Matthews

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:24:24 Senator Priest

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:27:52      Adjournment:

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Liane Taylor, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([ens08aad.pdf](#))**