

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Debby Barrett, on January 31, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Debby Barrett, Chairman (R)
Sen. Greg Hinkle, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. John Brenden (R)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. Edward Walker (R)
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jim Peterson (R)
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kevin McCue, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, 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 206, 1/26/2011

HEARING ON SB 206**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:21 Sen. Llew Jones (R), SD 14, opened the hearing on SB 206, Generally revise laws related to energy transmission siting.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:01 Doug Hardy, lobbyist, Montana Rural Electrical Cooperatives' Association
00:06:19 Don Flynn, lobbyist, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Local 44
00:06:47 Darryl James, lobbyist, Montana Alberta Tie Ltd (MATL LLP)
00:07:35 Van Jamison, Vice President of Strategic Operations, Gaelectric North America
00:12:24 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSA)
00:13:03 Chris Christiaens, lobbyist, Montana Farmers' Union
00:14:08 John Fitzpatrick, lobbyist, Northwestern Energy
00:17:28 Ronda Wiggers, lobbyist, Great Falls Area Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

00:19:11 Richard Opper, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
EXHIBIT(nas24a01)
00:26:53 Jim Jensen, lobbyist, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
00:28:48 Tim Ravndal, representing the Lewis and Clark County Conservative Tea Party
(LCCTP)
00:31:33 Casey Perkins, lobbyist, Montana Audubon
00:32:42 Peter Scott, lobbyist, Jefferson County
00:38:04 Michael J. Gillis, representing the Lewis and Clark County Conservative Tea
Party (LCCTP)

Informational Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:38:50 Sen. Hinkle
00:40:50 Dir. Opper, DEQ
00:42:22 Sen. Keane
00:42:42 Sen. Jones
00:43:45 Sen. Walker
00:44:19 Sen. Brenden
00:45:13 Mr. Jamison, Gaelectric
00:48:21 Sen. Brenden
00:48:37 Mr. Ravndal, LCCTP
00:49:06 Sen. Tropila
00:49:42 Dir. Opper
00:51:09 Sen. Jackson
00:51:56 Dir. Opper

00:52:49 Sen. Vincent joined the hearing
00:54:16 Sen. Keane
00:54:32 Mrs. Nowakowski, LSD
00:54:47 Sen. Barrett
00:55:14 Dir. Opper
00:56:23 Without objection, Tom Ring, DEQ
00:57:40 Sen. Barrett
00:58:12 Sen. Jones
00:59:25 Mrs. Nowakowski
01:00:32 Sen. Barrett

Closing by Sponsor:

01:01:22 Sen. Jones

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY

[EXHIBIT\(nas24a02\)](#)

Testimony on SB 206 submitted via e-mail by Kristine Mather on January 31, 2011.

[EXHIBIT\(nas24a03\)](#)

Testimony on SB 206 submitted to committee by Rachel Roberts on February 2, 2011.

[EXHIBIT\(nas24a04\)](#)

Testimony on SB 206 submitted to committee by Northwestern Energy on February 2, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
01:08:21

Kevin McCue, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas24aad.pdf](#))