

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Alan Olson, on February 1, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317-C
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. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Bob Lake (R)
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)
Sen. Jason Priest (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)
Sen. Edward Walker (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Kendall Van Dyk (D)

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:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 225, 1/26/2011; SB 226, 1/26/2011

Committee Business:

00:01:39 Chairman Olson

EXHIBIT(ens25a01)

00:01:44 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD

00:03:25 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Erickson moved **TO PROCEED WITH A COMMITTEE BILL.**
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Sen. Van Dyk voting by proxy.

HEARING ON SB 226

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:04:21 Sen. Jason Priest (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 226, Amend utility net metering requirements.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:07:51 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

EXHIBIT(ens25a02)

00:13:01 John Alke, representing Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

00:15:36 Commissioner Brad Molnar, Public Service Commission (PSC)

EXHIBIT(ens25a03)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:20:08 Conor Darby, General Manager, Independent Power Systems (IPS) and President, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

EXHIBIT(ens25a04)

00:24:06 Henry Dykema, representing Sundance Solar Systems

00:28:01 Molly Severtson, representing The Policy Institute, (TPI)

00:31:07 Janet Dochnahl, representing self

00:35:01 Ryan Morton, representing self

00:36:48 Fred Gifford, representing self

00:38:23 Brian Leul, representing self

00:39:13 Ben Brouwer, representing Alternative Energy Resource Organization (AERO)

00:40:38 Matt Elsaesser, S.A.V.E

00:41:04 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:41:45 Diana Maneta, Executive Director, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

EXHIBIT(ens25a05)

00:44:18 Dave Ryan, representing self

00:46:13 Sen. Van Dyk joined the committee.

00:48:39 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters (MCW)

00:48:55 Gail Gutsche, Public Service Commission (PSC)

00:51:52 Sarah Sather, Montana Public Information Resource Group (MPIRG)

Informational Testimony:

00:52:28 Doug Hardy, representing Montana Rural Electric Cooperatives (MREC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:52:58 Sen. Vincent
00:54:00 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
00:55:58 Sen. Vincent
00:56:15 John Fitzpatrick
00:57:14 Sen. Lake
00:57:35 John Fitzpatrick
00:57:42 Sen. Lake
00:58:18 John Fitzpatrick
00:59:19 Sen. Lake
01:00:23 Conor Darby, IPS
01:02:41 Sen. Lake
01:03:11 Conor Darby
01:03:18 Sen. Erickson
01:03:58 John Fitzpatrick
01:04:25 Sen. Erickson
01:04:49 John Fitzpatrick
01:05:04 Sen. Tropila
01:06:14 Brad Molnar, PSC
01:07:43 Sen. Tropila
01:08:26 Gayle Gutsche, PSC
01:09:54 Sen. Moss
01:10:37 Conor Darby
01:11:24 Sen. Moss
01:11:59 Conor Darby
01:13:41 Chairman Olson
01:14:02 Sen. Priest
01:14:15 Sen. Walker
01:14:46 John Fitzpatrick
01:15:04 Sen. Walker
01:15:22 John Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

01:15:58 Sen. Priest

HEARING ON SB 225

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:20:05 Sen. Jason Priest (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 225, Revise laws governing qualifying small power production facility purchases.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:22:15 John Alke, representing Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
01:28:25 John Fitzpatrick, representing NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:31:39 Commissioner Brad Molnar, Public Service Commission (PSC)
[EXHIBIT\(ens25a06\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:43:41 Sen. Essmann
01:44:24 Commissioner Molnar
01:44:29 Sen. Essmann
01:44:46 Commissioner Molnar
01:44:50 Sen. Erickson
01:46:02 John Alke, MDU
01:47:09 Sen. Erickson
01:47:29 John Alke
01:47:49 Sen. Erickson
01:47:53 John Fitzpatrick
01:49:24 Sen. Erickson
01:49:49 John Fitzpatrick
01:50:31 Sen. Tropila
01:51:02 Sen. Priest
01:52:01 Sen. Tropila
01:52:09 Sen. Priest
01:53:07 Sen. Essmann
01:53:58 Sen. Priest
01:55:05 Sen. Erickson
01:56:14 Sen. Priest

Closing by Sponsor:

01:57:30 Sen. Priest

Committee Business:

01:58:13 Chairman Olson

Additional Exhibit:

[EXHIBIT\(ens25a07\)](#) Letter dated January 31, 2011 from Dean Williamson regarding SB 226.

ADJOURNMENT

01:59:03 Adjournment:

Liane Taylor, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens25aad.pdf](#))