

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Alan Olson, on March 24, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Alan Olson, 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. Edward Walker (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Verdell Jackson, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)  
Sen. Kendall Van Dyk (D)  
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:**

Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, 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 415, 3/17/2011

Executive Action: SB 415 ~ Do Pass  
SB 381 ~ Tabled (Withdrawn at request of sponsor)

00:00:29 Chairman introductions

**HEARING ON SB 415**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:29 Sen. Bob Lake (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 415, Generally revising oil and gas lease laws.

00:02:49 Senator Jackson arrived at committee meeting

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:05 Patrick Montalban, representing Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA)

**EXHIBIT(ens66a01)**

00:15:21 Dick Beatty, Attorney, Shelby

00:23:53 Dave Galt, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:25:44 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT(ens66a02)**

00:34:44 Willie Duffield, representing North East Land and Minerals Association (NELMA)

00:38:08 Derf Johnson, representing Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:40:22 Clayton Elliott, representing Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

00:46:20 Bob Gilbert, Richland County resident, self

00:48:02 Recess until after Senate evening floor session

00:48:11 Reconvene

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:48:30 Sen. Erickson

00:49:12 Mary Sexton, DNRC

00:50:17 Monty Mason, DNRC, without objection

00:51:00 Sen. Erickson

00:51:58 Sen. Moss

00:52:38 Mary Sexton

00:53:01 Sen. Moss

00:53:17 Mary Sexton

00:53:37 Sen. Moss

00:54:10 Willie Duffield (NELMA)

00:54:44 Chairman Olson

00:55:10 Monty Mason

00:56:39 Chairman Olson

00:56:47 Monty Mason  
00:56:58 Chairman Olson  
00:57:10 Patrick Montalban  
00:57:57 Chairman Olson  
00:58:16 Patrick Montalban  
00:58:26 Sen. Tropila  
00:59:39 Willie Duffield  
01:00:03 Sen. Tropila  
01:01:14 Mary Sexton  
01:01:29 Sen. Tropila  
01:01:48 Mary Sexton  
01:03:36 Chairman Olson  
01:03:53 Monty Mason  
01:07:33 Chairman Olson  
01:07:41 Monty Mason

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:08:06 Sen. Bob Lake  
01:11:00 Chairman Olson

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 381**

(Senators Essmann and Priest are excused)

01:11:34 Chairman Olson  
**EXHIBIT(ens66a03)**

01:11:49 **Motion:** Sen. Erickson moved that **SB 381 BE TABLED** upon the request of the sponsor.

**Discussion:**

01:12:01 Sen. Augare  
01:12:52 Chairman Olson

01:13:28 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Essmann and Sen. Priest voted by proxy.

01:14:09 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 415**

01:14:38 **Motion:** Sen. Lake moved that **SB 415 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

01:14:54 Sen. Erickson  
01:15:57 Chairman Olson  
01:16:31 Sen. Erickson

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01:17:31 Chairman Olson  
01:21:02 Sen. Lake  
01:21:33 Chairman Olson  
01:25:53 Sen. Moss  
01:27:06 Chairman Olson  
01:27:26 Sen. Moss  
01:27:54 Chairman Olson  
01:28:41 Sen. Tropila  
01:29:32 Sen. Lake  
01:29:39 Chairman Olson  
01:29:45 Sen. Walker  
01:30:02 Chairman Olson  
01:30:22 Sen. Augare  
01:31:18 Sen. Van Dyk  
01:31:38 Chairman Olson

01:32:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Augare, Sen. Erickson, Sen. Moss, Sen. Tropila and Sen. Van Dyk voting no. Sen. Essmann and Sen. Priest voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 8:15 P.M.  
01:33:35

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Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([ens66aad.pdf](#))**