

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Harry Klock, on March 7, 2011 at 3:28 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Robyn Driscoll, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Keith Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Rep. James Knox (R)
Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Mary McNally (D)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Derek Skees (R)
Rep. Sterling Small (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Harry Klock, Chair (R)

Members Absent: Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Ken Peterson (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Cara Gold, 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 104, 3/2/2011; SB 105, 3/2/2011; SB 109, 3/2/2011

00:00:05 The Vice Chair welcomed the committee and reviewed the committee rules.

HEARING ON SB 109

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:06 Sen. Debby Barrett (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SB 109, Revise definition of eligible renewable resources.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:12 Steve Jennings, Beaverhead Outdoors Association

EXHIBIT(feh51a01)

00:05:50 Sen. Alan Olson, SD 23

00:08:03 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

00:08:23 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

00:10:54 Patrick Heffernan, Montana Wood Products Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:11:38 Kyla Wiens, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:15:08 Clayton Elliott, Northern Plains Resource Council

00:19:14 Shelbi Dantic, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG)

00:19:54 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:21:20 Rep. Skees

00:21:40 Sen. Barrett

00:21:44 Rep. Skees

00:21:48 Sen. Barrett

00:22:00 Rep. Skees

00:22:17 Sen. Barrett

00:22:41 Sen. Olson

00:23:44 Rep. Knox

00:24:00 Sen. Olson

00:24:26 Rep. Knox

00:24:30 Sen. Olson

00:24:38 Rep. Skees

00:25:06 Clayton Elliott

00:25:21 Rep. Phillips

00:26:03 Sen. Barrett

Closing by Sponsor:

00:26:15 Sen. Barrett

HEARING ON SB 104

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

- 00:38:00 Sen. Jason Priest (R), SD 30, opened the hearing on SB 104, Limiting a public utility's ability to implement inverted block rates.
- 00:38:01 Chairman Klock and Rep. Peterson entered the hearing.
- 00:40:49 Rep. MacLaren entered the hearing.

Proponents' Testimony:

- 00:41:15 John Alke, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

- 00:48:33 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a03\)](#)
- 00:50:13 Rep. Peterson left the hearing.
- 00:51:55 Rep. Peterson returned to the hearing.
- 00:52:41 Diego Rivas, Montana Representative, Northwest Energy Coalition
- 00:56:12 Rep. Stahl entered the hearing.
- 00:57:31 Kyla Wiens, MEIC
- 01:00:19 Rep. Stahl and Rep. O'Hara left the hearing.
- 01:01:23 Molly Severtson, The Policy Institute
- 01:02:49 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters
- 01:03:41 Shelbi Dantic, MPIRG

Informational Testimony:

- 01:04:09 Doug Hardy, MECA

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

- 01:04:34 Rep. Knox
- 01:04:55 Kyla Wiens
- 01:05:36 John Fitzpatrick
- 01:05:54 Rep. Phillips
- 01:06:41 John Fitzpatrick
- 01:06:54 Rep. Phillips
- 01:07:14 John Alke

01:09:22 Rep. Skees
01:09:44 Diego Rivas
01:09:59 Rep. McNally
01:10:29 Sen. Priest
01:10:34 Rep. McNally
01:10:41 Sen. Priest

01:10:46 Rep. O'Hara returned to the hearing.

01:11:04 Rep. McNally
01:11:34 Doug Hardy
01:12:08 Rep. McNally
01:12:20 Doug Hardy

Closing by Sponsor:

01:12:55 Sen. Priest

HEARING ON SB 105

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:17:34 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:

01:18:58 George Mathieus, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:20:08 Rep. Driscoll
01:20:25 George Mathieus
01:21:37 Rep. Driscoll
01:21:47 George Mathieus
01:22:05 Rep. Phillips
01:22:47 Sen. Priest

01:23:34 Rep. MacLaren left the hearing.

Closing by Sponsor:

01:24:04 Sen. Priest

01:25:02 Rep. MacLaren returned to the hearing.

01:25:25 Rep. Klock

ADJOURNMENT

01:25:54 Adjournment

Cara Gold, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh51aad.pdf](#))