

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Alan Olson, on March 8, 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. Jason Priest (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. Chas Vincent (R)
Sen. Edward Walker (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)
Sen. Kendall Van Dyk (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Todd Everts, 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.

HEARING ON HB 169

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:06 Rep. Harry Klock (R), HD 83, opened the hearing on HB 169, Repeal Electricity Buying Cooperative Act.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:56 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

00:04:33 Al Brogan, Chief Counsel, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:05:38 Chairman Olson

00:06:01 Rep. Klock

Closing by Sponsor:

00:06:12 Rep. Klock

HEARING ON HB 92

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:06:42 Rep. Austin Knudsen (R), HD 36, opened the hearing on HB 92, Revise avoided cost calculation for qual facilities to conform to federal law.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:08:56 Al Brogan, Chief Counsel, Public Service Commission (PSC)

00:10:37 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

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Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:15:02 Sen. Tropila

Closing by Sponsor:

00:15:25 Rep. Knudsen

HEARING ON HB 233

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:16:09 Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R), HD 18, opened the hearing on HB 233, Revise qualifying facilities laws regarding rates.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:17:01 Al Brogan, Chief Counsel, Public Service Commission (PSC)

00:20:34 Mary Wright, Montana Consumer Council (MCC)

00:22:05 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:50 Sen. Erickson

00:26:01 Al Brogan, PSC

00:27:03 Sen. Erickson

00:27:28 Sen. Tropila

00:27:44 John Fitzpatrick, NWE

Closing by Sponsor:

00:28:58 Rep. O'Hara

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 92

00:29:46 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Priest moved that **HB 92 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Senators Essmann, Lake, Walker, Moss and Van Dyk voting by proxy. Sen. Priest will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 169

00:31:14 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Vincent moved that **HB 169 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Senators Essmann, Lake, Walker, Moss and Van Dyk voting by proxy. Sen. Olson will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 233

00:32:07 **Motion:** Sen. Jackson moved that **HB 233 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion:

00:32:26 Sen. Erickson

00:32:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Senators Essmann, Lake, Moss, Van Dyk and Walker voting by proxy. Sen. Lake will carry the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

00:34:03 Adjournment:

Liane Taylor, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens52aad.pdf](#))