

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Lee Randall, on February 12, 2013 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Lee Randall, Chair (R)
Rep. Kathleen Williams, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Joanne G. Blyton (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Greg Hertz (R)
Rep. Krayton Kerns (R)
Rep. Mike Lang (R)
Rep. Dennis R. Lenz (R)
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)
Rep. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)
Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez (D)
Rep. Rae Peppers (D)
Rep. Gordon Pierson Jr (D)
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)
Rep. Daniel R. Salomon (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Christy Clark, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. David Halvorson (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: McKenzie Chambers, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, 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: HB 344, 2/4/2013, HB 375, 2/6/13, HB 420, 2/8/13

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a02\)](#)

00:13:47 Rep. Randall

HEARING ON HB 420

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:15:03 Rep. Daniel Salomon (R), HD 12, opened the hearing on HB 420, Fund food and agricultural development centers.

00:16:11 Rep. Williams

00:16:14 Rep. Salomon

Proponents' Testimony:

00:16:30 Paul Tuss, Executive Director, Bear Paw Development Corporation of Northern Montana

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a04\)](#)

00:18:46 Rep. Halvorson joined the meeting.

00:18:57 Jan Tusick, Center Director, Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center (MMFEC)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a05\)](#)

00:20:40 Joel Bertolino, Program Manager, Food and Agriculture Center, Beartooth Resource, Conservation, & Development Area, Inc. (Beartooth RC&D)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a08\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a09\)](#)

00:21:59 Joe Arnold, Flathead Lake Cheese

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a10\)](#)

00:23:19 Wendi Arnold, Owner, Flathead Lake Cheese

00:24:55 Karen Powell, Owner, Triple Divide Spirits

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a11\)](#)

00:28:24 Rick Edwards, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA), and Chairman, Board, Headwaters Resource, Conservation, and Development (Headwaters RC&D)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a12\)](#)

00:30:07 Jolene Bach, Vice President, Development, Great Falls Development Authority (GFDA)

00:32:18 John McKee, Headframe Spirits

00:33:44 Mary Ippisch, Owner, Western Montana Specialty Foods, Inc.

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a15\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a16\)](#)

00:37:12 Paul Lemay, Jr., Dell Mercantile

00:39:02 Jeanne Schnitzler, Dell Mercantile

00:39:58 Dave Prather, General Manager, Western Montana Growers Cooperative (WMGC)

00:41:59 Rep. Randall

00:42:11 John Youngburg, Montana Farm Bureau (MFBF)
00:42:37 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)
00:43:18 Clayton Elliott, Northern Plains Resource Council

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:44:15 Rep. Blyton
00:44:37 Rep. Salomon
00:44:44 Rep. Williams
00:45:14 Paul Tuss, Bear Paw Development Corporation of Northern Montana
00:46:18 Rep. Williams
00:46:27 Paul Tuss, Bear Paw Development Corporation of Northern Montana
00:46:32 Rep. Williams
00:46:40 Jan Tusick, MMFEC
00:47:57 Rep. MacDonald
00:48:24 Jan Tusick, MMFEC

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:55 Rep. Salomon
00:50:30 Rep. Clark joined the meeting.
00:50:35 Rep. Randall

HEARING ON HB 344

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:51:42 Rep. Brian Hoven (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 344, Revise laws related to agricultural commodity dealers.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:55:43 Ryan McCormick, President, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
01:04:50 Brian Eggebrecht, past President, MGGA
01:11:48 Charlie Bumgarner, Member, and Officer, MGGA
01:13:57 Chris Christiaens, MFU

EXHIBIT(agh31a17)

01:16:08 John Youngburg, MFBF
01:17:09 Lyle Benjamin, Board of Directors, MGGA

Opponents' Testimony:

01:17:48 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Grain Elevator Association (MGEA)

EXHIBIT(agh31a18)

EXHIBIT(agh31a19)

01:24:39 Byron Grassman, Grain Division Manager, Mountain View Co-op, and Vice-President, MGEA
01:26:34 Greg Thayer, CEO, Montana Milling, Inc.
01:29:32 Kent Kupfner, Columbia Grain, Inc.
01:34:00 Justin Hager, Montana Specialty Mills, LLC (MSM)

EXHIBIT(agh31a20)

01:35:19 Jim Barngrover, Timeless Seeds Inc.

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a21\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(agh31a22\)](#)

01:38:40 Mark Black, Malteurop

01:39:28 Mark Lalum, CHS Kalispell

01:42:00 Andre Giles, Chief Executive Officer, and President, Montana Flour & Grains

01:44:54 Gene Thayer, former State Senator, and Founder, Montana Milling, Inc.

01:47:32 Pat Keim, Colombia Grain, Inc. (CGI)

01:50:04 Gary DeFrance, Harrison Elevator

01:50:54 Sam Schmidt, Montana Milling, Inc.

Informational Testimony:

01:51:31 Cort Jensen, Attorney, Director's Office, Department of Agriculture (AGR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:53:48 Rep. Hertz

01:54:18 Ryan McCormick, MGGA

01:54:46 Rep. Hertz

01:55:00 Ryan McCormick, MGGA

01:55:09 Rep. Hertz

01:55:39 Ryan McCormick, MGGA

01:56:23 Rep. Hertz

01:56:41 Ryan McCormick, MGGA

01:57:15 Rep. Redfield

01:57:30 Cort Jensen, AGR

01:58:48 Rep. Lang

01:59:16 Cort Jensen, AGR

02:01:58 Rep. Lang

02:02:29 Brian Eggebrecht, MGGA

02:04:44 Rep. Lang

02:05:07 Brian Eggebrecht, MGGA

02:07:12 Rep. Williams

02:07:39 Greg Thayer, Montana Milling, Inc.

02:08:26 Rep. Halvorson

02:09:01 Byron Grassman, MGEA

02:09:24 Rep. Halvorson

02:09:50 Byron Grassman, MGEA

Closing by Sponsor:

02:10:05 Rep. Hoven

02:12:28 Rep. Randall

HEARING ON HB 375

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:15:06 Rep. Nancy Ballance (R), HD 89, opened the hearing on HB 375, Elk, deer, and antelope damage reimbursement program.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:17:13 Jay Meyer, Member, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch Board
02:25:53 Philip Tummarello, Self
02:31:30 Jan Wisniewski, Self
02:36:36 Brian Rouse, Member, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch

Opponents' Testimony:

02:39:25 Vito Quatraro, Montana Sportsmen Alliance
EXHIBIT(agh31a23)
02:42:19 JW Westman, Family, and Laurel Rod & Gun Club
EXHIBIT(agh31a24)
EXHIBIT(agh31a25)
02:43:00 Nick Gevock, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
02:44:14 Sam Milodragovich, Skyline Sportsmen, and Montana Sportsmen Alliance
02:45:23 John Borgreen, Russel Country Sportsman Association, and Montana Sportsmen Alliance
02:46:01 Justin Sakalis, Montana Audubon
02:46:37 Ken McDonald, Administrator, Wildlife Division, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)
EXHIBIT(agh31a26)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:51:35 Rep. Redfield
02:52:16 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:52:35 Rep. Redfield
02:53:00 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:53:44 Rep. Redfield
02:54:22 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:55:10 Rep. Pierson
02:55:24 Alan Charles, Coordinator, Land Owner/Sportsmen Relations, Wildlife Bureau, FWP
02:55:34 Rep. Pierson
02:56:01 Alan Charles, FWP
02:57:07 Rep. Pierson
02:57:25 Brian Rouse, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch
02:58:28 Rep. Lenz
02:58:48 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:58:49 Rep. Lenz
02:59:10 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:59:29 Rep. Lenz
02:59:38 Ken McDonald, FWP
02:59:45 Rep. Halvorson
03:00:47 Brian Rouse, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch
03:01:54 Rep. Lang
03:02:30 Ken McDonald, FWP
03:03:14 Rep. Lang
03:03:26 Ken McDonald, FWP
03:04:01 Rep. Lang
03:04:41 Rep. Williams

03:04:58 Brian Rouse, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch
03:05:40 Rep. Williams
03:05:48 Brian Rouse, Ravalli County Right to Farm and Ranch
03:06:20 Rep. Hertz
03:06:47 Ken McDonald, FWP
03:07:37 Rep. Randall
03:08:15 Ken McDonald, FWP
03:09:12 Rep. Randall
03:09:20 Ken McDonald, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

03:09:58 Rep. Ballance
03:10:41 Rep. Clark left the meeting.
03:11:59 Rep. Randall

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 03:12:28

McKenzie Chambers, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh31aad.pdf](#))