

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Keith Regier, on February 13, 2013 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Keith Regier, Chair (R)
Rep. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Doug Kary (R)
Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Mike Lang (R)
Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R)
Rep. Rae Peppers (D)
Rep. Tom Steenberg (D)
Rep. Kathy Swanson (D)
Rep. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Roger A. Hagan (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Molly Miltenberger, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, 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:

Executive Action: SB 90, SB 141

Hearing: HB 394

00:29:44 Chair Regier

HEARING ON HB 394

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:31:18 Rep. Tom Jacobson (D), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 394, Allow for aggregate net metering.

[EXHIBIT\(feh32a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh32a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh32a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:37:34 Ben Brouwer, Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO), and Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

00:59:05 Wayne Baker, Baker Light Industries, and MREA

01:00:49 Chris Borton, Director, Sage Mountain Center

01:04:50 Connor Darby, Owner, Solstice Energy Systems, President, and MREA

[EXHIBIT\(feh32a04\)](#)

01:10:00 David Ryan, Licensed Professional Engineer, Engineer Efficiency and Renewable Energy

01:15:33 Ed Gulick, Former Chair, Northern Plains Resource Council (Northern Plains), and Architect, High Plains Architects

01:18:17 Jeff Fox, Montana Policy Manager, Renewable Northwest Project (RNP)

01:22:45 Todd Cochran, Resident, Missoula

01:24:49 Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center

01:25:04 Rep. Kary left.

01:29:12 Sem Thompson, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

01:30:11 Ross Prosperi, Community Organizer, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

01:31:54 Matthew Elsaesser, Executive Director, Student Advocates for Valuing the Environment Foundation (SAVE)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:33:01 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Informational Testimony:

01:51:08 Lou Moore, Bureau Chief, Energy and Pollution Prevention Bureau, Planning, Prevention and Assistance Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:52:24 Rep. Moore

01:52:45 Ms. Moore, DEQ

01:53:06 Rep. McNally

01:53:46 Mr. Ryan, Self

01:54:37 Rep. McNally

01:55:04 Mr. Fox, RNP

01:56:14 Rep. McNally

01:56:44 Mr. Brouwer, AERO, MREA

01:59:19 Rep. Boland

02:00:01 Mr. Brouwer, AERO, MREA

02:01:31 Rep. Boland

02:01:45 Mr. Brouwer, AERO, MREA
02:03:20 Rep. Boland
02:04:04 Mr. Fitzpatrick, NWE
02:04:38 Rep. Berry
02:05:31 Mr. Fitzpatrick, NWE
02:07:17 Rep. McNally
02:07:41 Rep. Jacobson
02:07:57 Rep. McNally
02:08:16 Rep. Jacobson
02:08:54 Rep. Zolnikov
02:09:44 Mr. Brouwer, AERO, MREA

Closing by Sponsor:

02:11:09 Rep. Jacobson
02:17:03 Chair Regier

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 90

02:17:27 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. O'Hara moved that **SB 90 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Kary voted by proxy. Rep. Knudsen will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 141

02:18:48 **Motion:** Rep. O'Hara moved that **SB 141 BE CONCURRED IN**.

Discussion

02:19:07 Rep. McNally

02:19:31 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Kary voted by proxy. Rep. Ankney will carry the bill.

Discussion

02:20:06 Chair Regier
02:20:20 Rep. Knudsen
02:20:41 Chair Regier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 02:21:00

Molly Miltenberger, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh32aad.pdf](#))