

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Tutvedt, on January 23, 2013 at 8:00 AM, in Room 405  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Bruce Tutvedt, Chair (R)  
Sen. Fred Thomas, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Ron Arthun (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)  
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)  
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)  
Sen. Janna Taylor (R)  
Sen. Art Wittich (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch  
Charlene Rich, 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 96, 1/16/2013; SB 138, 1/16/2013

**Executive Action:** SB 108, do pass

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 108**

**Motion/Vote:** Sen. Thomas moved that **SB 108 DO PASS**. Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote.  
Sen. Essmann, Sen. Peterson and Sen. Taylor were excused.

**HEARING ON SB 138****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:20:26 Sen. Art Wittich (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on SB 138, Extend class 14 tax classification to all new generating and fuel facilities.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:22:13 Ron Devlin, Northwestern Energy (NWE)  
00:23:25 Charles Wideman, self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:24:05 Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

**Informational Testimony:**

00:25:28 Gene Walborn, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:25:50 Sen. Malek  
00:29:23 Sen. Wittich  
00:30:41 Sen. Malek  
00:31:43 Sen. Peterson entered the hearing.  
00:32:24 Sen. Wittich  
00:35:55 Sen. Thomas  
00:36:04 Ron Devlin, NWE  
00:37:33 Sen. Thomas  
00:38:33 Sen. Arthun  
00:38:45 Sen. Wittich  
00:40:07 Sen. Phillips  
00:40:21 Sen. Wittich  
00:40:36 Chairman Tutvedt  
00:41:39 Sen. Kaufmann  
00:44:17 Ron Devlin  
00:45:00 Sen. Barrett  
00:45:47 Ron Devlin  
00:48:44 Sen. Barrett  
00:50:04 Sen. Wittich  
00:52:04 Sen. Malek  
00:52:13 Gene Walborn, DOR  
00:53:05 Sen. Malek  
00:53:10 Gene Walborn

00:55:01 Sen. Jergeson  
00:56:20 Ron Devlin  
00:57:23 Sen. Jergeson  
00:58:00 Ron Devlin  
01:00:49 Sen. Phillips  
01:02:00 Sen. Wittich  
01:03:56 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:04:15 Kyla Maki, MEIC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:05:05 Sen. Wittich

**HEARING ON SB 96**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:06:12 Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 96, Lower the business and equipment tax.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:09:33 Webb Brown, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)  
01:11:21 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)  
01:13:21 Jack Walsh, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)  
01:13:50 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA), Montana County Treasurers' (MCT)  
01:16:06 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)  
01:16:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)  
01:17:44 Michael Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)  
01:18:23 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)  
01:18:58 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
01:20:15 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

01:24:21 Ed Caplis, Director of Tax Policy and Research, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)  
01:24:36 Jim Standaert, Montana Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:25:00 Sen. Barrett  
01:25:30 Harold Blattie, MACo  
01:25:59 Sen. Malek  
01:26:18 Jim Standart, LFD  
01:28:26 Sen. Thomas  
01:28:41 Jim Standart  
01:30:20 Sen. Malek

01:35:42 Chairman Tutvedt  
01:37:04 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:37:19 Chairman Tutvedt  
01:38:09 Sen. Barrett  
01:38:5 Chairman Tutvedt  
01:39:29 Sen. Jergeson  
01:46:46 John Semple, MGGA  
01:47:32 Sen. Peterson  
01:47:53 Webb Brown, MCC  
01:49:59 Sen. Taylor  
01:53:08 Ed Caplis, DOR

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:55:19 Chairman Tutvedt

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:00 am

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Charlene Rich, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([tas14aad.pdf](#))**