

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang, on February 18, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Rep. Tom Steenberg, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Tom Berry (R)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R)  
Rep. Zac Perry (D)  
Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)  
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)  
Rep. Tom Richmond (R)  
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Andrew Person (D)  
Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary  
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

**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 485, 2/13/2015; HB 489, 2/13/2015

00:00:04 Chairman Lang  
00:01:19 Rep. Knudsen entered  
00:01:48 Rep. Welborn entered

**HEARING ON HB 489**

**EXHIBIT(feh37a01)**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:54 Rep. Randall Pinocci (R), HD 19, opened the hearing on HB 489, Generally revise net metering laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:09:58 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest  
00:12:53 Becky Brandborg, Self  
00:15:30 Connor Darby, Onsite Energy and Self  
00:19:41 Diana Maneta, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)  
00:21:03 Debra Hanneman, Self  
00:21:38 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Alternative Energy Recourse Organization (AERO)

**EXHIBIT(feh37a02)**

00:22:59 Wade Sikorski, Self  
00:26:17 Gary Aitken, Self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:30:10 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

**EXHIBIT(feh37a03)**

00:40:39 Rep. Person entered

**EXHIBIT(feh37a04)**

00:46:48 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)  
00:48:16 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative  
00:53:18 Mark Grotbo, Ravalli County Electric Cooperative

**EXHIBIT(feh37a05)**

**EXHIBIT(feh37a06)**

00:54:43 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)  
00:55:20 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:55:59 Rep. Moore  
00:56:19 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative  
00:58:49 Rep. Moore  
00:59:03 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative  
00:59:12 Rep. Perry  
00:59:33 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative  
00:59:42 Rep. Perry  
00:59:54 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative  
01:00:08 Rep. Perry  
01:00:15 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative

01:00:36 Rep. Berry  
01:01:10 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:02:07 Rep. Schreiner  
01:02:31 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative  
01:02:41 Rep. Schreiner  
01:02:59 Rep. Pinocci  
01:03:21 Rep. Schreiner  
01:03:36 Rep. Pinocci  
01:04:30 Rep. Schreiner  
01:04:58 Chairman Lang  
01:05:24 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative  
01:06:12 Rep. Pope  
01:07:08 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:07:34 Rep. Pope  
01:08:08 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:08:27 Rep. Pope  
01:08:50 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:09:14 Rep. Berry  
01:09:41 Rep. Pinocci  
01:11:26 Rep. Berry  
01:11:36 Chairman Lang  
01:11:39 Rep. Pinocci  
01:11:49 Rep. Steenberg  
01:12:27 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:12:45 Rep. Schreiner  
01:13:01 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:13:26 Chairman Lang  
01:13:31 Rep. Custer  
01:14:13 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:14:39 Rep. Lynch  
01:15:02 Doug Hardy, MECA  
01:15:27 Rep. Welborn  
01:16:34 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:17:29 Rep. Pinocci  
  
01:21:52 Recess  
Rep. Knudsen left the hearing  
01:27:12 Reconvened

**HEARING ON HB 485**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:27:42 Rep. Art Wittich (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 485, Revise net metering laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:32:48 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

01:34:58 Diana Maneta, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

**EXHIBIT(feh37a07)**

01:38:12 Ed Gulick, High Plains Architects

01:41:25 Dan Brandborg, SBS Solar

**EXHIBIT(feh37a08)**

01:46:50 Betsy Costain, Neighborhood Association

01:48:50 Kathie Montgomery, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

01:50:38 Wade Sikorski, Self

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:52:39 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

**EXHIBIT(feh37a09)**

**EXHIBIT(feh37a10)**

02:02:28 Rep. Pope

02:02:49 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

02:06:00 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

02:06:25 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

**Informational Testimony:**

02:06:49 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:07:15 Rep. Zolnikov

02:07:40 Gary Forrester, MDU

02:08:03 Rep. Zolnikov

02:08:06 Gary Forrester, MDU

02:08:17 Rep. Pinocci

02:09:20 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

02:10:01 Rep. Pope

02:11:02 Will Rosquist, PSC

02:11:22 Rep. Pope

02:11:25 Will Rosquist, PSC

02:11:47 Rep. Pope

02:12:11 Will Rosquist, PSC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:14:14 Rep. Wittich

02:20:29 Recess

02:34:45 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 252**

02:35:11 **Motion:** Rep. Steenberg moved that **HB 252 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

02:35:39 Chairman Lang

02:35:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

02:36:09 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 252 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

02:36:16 Rep. Berry

02:36:42 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

02:37:08 Chairman Lang

02:38:24 Rep. Zolnikov

02:38:44 Rep. Berry

02:38:58 Chairman Lang

02:39:02 Rep. Pope

02:39:27 Chairman Lang

02:39:44 Rep. Berry

02:39:49 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 114**

02:40:17 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 114 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

02:40:41 Rep. Steenberg

02:41:26 Rep. Moore

02:41:43 Rep. Schreiner

02:42:27 Rep. Person

02:43:22 Rep. Pope

02:43:53 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Lynch, Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Pope, Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Steenberg voting no. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy. Rep. Welborn will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 489**

02:44:59 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 489 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

02:45:08 Rep. Schreiner

02:45:56 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Schreiner moved that **HB 489 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 10-5 by roll call vote with Rep. Lynch, Rep. Pinocci, Rep. Pope, Rep. Steenberg and Rep. Zolnikov voting no. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 485**

02:47:05 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 485 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

02:47:15 Rep. Zolnikov

02:48:12 Rep. Schreiner

02:49:08 Chairman Lang

02:49:43 Rep. Zolnikov

02:50:07 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Pinocci, Rep. Pope, Rep. Steenberg and Rep. Zolnikov voting aye. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

02:50:59 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 485 BE TABLED.** Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

02:51:21 Chairman Lang

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 02:51:35

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Jessica Riffel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([feh37aad.pdf](#))**