

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL TASH**, on March 26, 1999 at 3:25 P.M., in Room 437 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bill Tash, Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Harper, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Cindy Younkin, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Rod Bitney (R)
Rep. Aubyn A. Curtiss (R)
Rep. Rick Dale (R)
Rep. Bill Eggers (D)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Gail Gutsche (D)
Rep. Joan Hurdle (D)
Rep. Dan McGee (R)
Rep. Douglas Mood (R)
Rep. Karl Ohs (R)
Rep. Scott J. Orr (R)
Rep. Bob Raney (D)
Rep. Bob Story (R)
Rep. Jay Stovall (R)
Rep. Carley Tuss (D)
Rep. Doug Wagner (R)

Members Excused: Rep. David Ewer (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Deb Thompson, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: None
Executive Action: HB 158, SB 345

Chairman Tash announced an April 7 visit to the Natural Resources Information Center at the Montana State Library. He said there would be a committee oversight meeting regarding SB 383, the cluster development bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HOUSE BILL 158

Rep. Karl Ohs, HD 33, presented a subcommittee report regarding HB 158 and the underground storage tanks bill. He presented amendments and a grey bill. **EXHIBIT(nah68a01) EXHIBIT(nah68a02)** He said the white copy the subcommittee had agreed on, the grey copy included those amendments. **EXHIBIT(nah68a03) {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 3.1 - 6.8}**

Larry Mitchell discussed the amendments that had been agreed to by the subcommittee. **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 6.8 - 14.8}**

Committee Discussion: **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.8 - 30.7}**

The question was called on the grey amendments. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 30.7 - 31.3}**

Larry Mitchell discussed the conflicts from the previous amendment. **EXHIBIT(nah68a04) {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 31.3 - 35.9}**

Rep. Erickson **MOVED TO RECONSIDER** the bill. He explained the subcommittee had lots of discussion on the issue. The question was called. The motion **PASSED** unanimously. **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 35.9 - 40.4}**

Rep. Ohs **MOVED DO PASS AS AMENDED**. The motion **PASSED** 15-5 with Reps. Hurdle, Curtiss, Orr, Wagner and McGee voting no. **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 40.4 - 42.2}**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SENATE BILL 345

Rep. Curtis **MOVED DO CONCUR** SB 345. Rep. Dale presented an amendment, prepared by Greg Petesch, to address committee concerns. **EXHIBIT(nah68a05) {Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 42.2 - 54}**

Rep. Dale **MOVED** the amendments. He referred to a letter he had received. **{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 54 - 57.5}**

The question was called on the amendment which included the 2/3 vote. The motion **PASSED** 11-9 on a roll call vote. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 1 - 4.6}**

Rep. Curtiss discussed the Initiative process. She said she was offended by the integrity of the process. She pointed out the MEIC paid \$13 thousand dollars to get signatures on the petitions. To get the issue on the ballot, these signatures were gathered by special interest groups which was not in the interest of the people statewide. She felt that people statewide did not believe that it was to shut down mining. She noted that Rep. Erickson had remarked that he believed it was to shut down the McDonald mine. She had done a poll in December and the people in her district would not know that it would shut down any mine. Ninety percent of those polled favored utilization of our resources. She referred to \$6,500 paid for signature collecting services collected in Missoula. Other expenditures were from out-of-state organizations. **EXHIBIT(nah68a06) EXHIBIT(nah68a07)** She suggested this was not a Montana Initiative process but a process that came about because of the efforts of special interest groups that were willing to sacrifice jobs and the entire economy of the state to accomplish their goals. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 4.6 - 7.4}**

Rep. Dale **MOVED SB 345, DO CONCUR AS AMENDED.** Rep. Harper said he felt this was clearly tampering with the Initiative process. He asked if the Legislature had the right to change an Initiative in the same year it was passed just because you don't agree with it. **{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 7.4 - 10.1}**

The question was called on the Dale motion. The motion **FAILED** 10-10 on a roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:35 P.M.

REP. BILL TASH, Chairman

DEB THOMPSON, Secretary

BT/DT

EXHIBIT (nah68aad)