

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON SB 406**

**Call to Order:** By **SENATOR FRED THOMAS**, on April 14, 1999 at  
11:12 A.M., in Room 402 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Fred Thomas  
Sen. Dale Berry  
Sen. Steve Doherty  
Rep. Royal Johnson  
Rep. Ernie Bergsagel  
Rep. David Ewer

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Phoebe Olson, Secretary  
Todd Everts, Legislative Services Division

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

**Committee Business Summary:**

Conference Committee on SB406

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**, asked what had been done with the bill.

**Debbie Smith**, explained the amendment. She maintained that the amendments before the committee represented a consensus proposal on how to work out the differences in the two bills.

**EXHIBIT (ccs87sb0406a01)**

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**, asked what Neal Colwell had learned in talking with Bonneville Power concerning the deed the way it was originally written.

**Neal Colwell, Vista Corporation**, said he did investigate the issue, to try to determine what this meant and how it would work with the methodology in the original language. He maintained he had not talked with Bonneville directly. He explained what he had learned from his investigation. He said the proposed amendment probably addressed the issues.

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**, asked if Gail Kuntz saw a problem with either area.

**Gail Kuntz, Bonneville Power Administration**, said she wished they could be clear about exactly what would work for them. She advised that if the language in the bill were broad it would leave more flexibility for the parties and the public service commission to work with them.

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**, asked how she would feel if all of section D was taken out.

**Gail Kuntz**, said that was a difficult question, because she did not feel Bonneville could have an opinion about that in the sense that it had to be something Montana policy makers decide.

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON**, asked to hear from the others on their thoughts about removing Section D.

**Mic Robinson, Governors Office**, said some of it could be negotiable. He thought the groups had all agreed to the first part of it. He said if it would cause problems they would be willing not to consider it.

**Neal Colwell**, said they would support leaving Section D in the bill.

**Margie Thomas, MT Power Company**, said they would like to leave the section in.

**Debbie Smith**, said it was important to consider the wants of all interested parties. She said she stood behind keeping the section in.

**Vote:** REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON made the motion that **SB 406 BE AMENDED** carried unanimously.

**Vote:** SENATOR DOHERTY made a motion that **SB 406 DO PASS AS AMENDED** carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:27 A.M.

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SEN. FRED THOMAS, Chairman

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PHOEBE OLSON, Secretary

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**EXHIBIT (ccs87sb0406aad)**