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MINORITY
OPINION

Energy & Telecommunications Committee Meeting
January 19, 2006

Exhibit #17

42

MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1701 PROSPECT AVE

HELENA, MT 59601

FAX

To: **CASEY BARRS**

Fax: **406-444-3036**

From: **BRAD MOLNAR**

Date: **11/17/2005**

Re: **SURVEY**

Pages: **4 including cover**

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[Bills](#)

[Committees](#)

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Survey: An Energy Planning and Coordinating Entity for Montana?

Given that you have accessed the ETIC website and may be interested in energy matters, we invite you to complete the brief survey below.

The Legislature tasked ETIC to pursue two detailed studies this interim. One of them, Senate Joint Resolution 39, requested the study of the possible creation of an ongoing energy planning and coordinating entity in Montana.

SJR/39 asserted the following points: The cost and development of energy resources is critical to all Montanans; there is a large and uncoordinated complex of local, state, federal, non-profit and for-profit bodies all working on energy issues; there is no single Montana-based entity specifically dedicated to broad planning, analysis, and evaluation of energy issues; without such an entity it is almost impossible to have a vision for developing the energy resources and meeting future energy needs of Montana.

As you know, energy issues are dominating the headlines. The proposition that there be a singular entity created to address these many challenges could have great import for our state, economy, and citizens. Your thoughts about the following questions would be appreciated. **Please Respond by November 15th.**

If you have any question concerning the content of the survey please contact Casey Barrs at (406) 444-3957 or cbarrs@mt.gov. If you have any technical questions, please contact the Legislative Branch [Webmaster](#)

Please answer the following questions.

Name:

Brad Molnar

Employer:

PSC

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(1) SJR 36 states that "the lack of a singular Montana-based entity specific, dedicated to broad planning, analysis, and evaluation of energy issues" mak it "impossible for us to have a vision for developing the energy resources an meeting future energy needs of Montana." What do you think of this stateme

Strongly Disagree Disagree No Opinion Agree Strongly Agree

(2) There would be substantial benefits in creating an energy planning and coordinatng entity for Montana. (If agree, please state them)

Strongly Disagree Disagree No Opinion Agree Strongly Agree
benefits:

Depends on mission & how set up.

(3) There would be substantial challenges in creating an energy planning a coordinatng entity for Montana. (If agree, please state them)

Strongly Disagree Disagree No Opinion Agree Strongly Agree
challenges:

(4) Indicate the degree to which you feel such an entity should engage in th following: (1 = 'Should Play No Role', 5 = 'Should play a key role')

Plan policy - 1 2 3 4 5

Coordinate stakeholders - 1 2 3 4 5

Foster generation & Infrastructure - 1 2 3 4 5

Information clearinghouse - 1 2 3 4 5

Other: _____ - 1 2 3 4 5

(5) If this entity is to have a mandate to plan energy policy, then our state legislative and executive bodies should consider its recommended plans to

Merely one

Their

source of advice for them to consider.

1 2 3 4 5

paramount source of advice.

(6) If this entity is to have a mandate to coordinate energy stakeholders, then those stakeholders should consider it to be:

Merely a clearinghouse of information and optional guidance for them.

1 2 3 4 5

A critical way station to pass through in the pursuit of policies and promotion of their interests.

(7) I would be much assured about such an entity if it were structured to ensure equal voice for stakeholders from federal, tribal, state and local government, as well as electric utilities, natural gas and electricity suppliers, non-profits, and parties involved in potential energy generation and transmission.

non equal stakeholders should not have equal

Strongly Disagree Disagree No Opinion Agree Strongly Agree

(8) SJR suggests an "ongoing" entity. Would you recommend an entity that *is*

(9) Do you feel other states have successful energy planning and coordination entities that might be useful models for Montana? (This question is being pursued in separate research, but you are welcome to comment if you have knowledge of practices in other states.)

comments: No Dak Ignite Council
(North Dakota)

(10) Are there any other thoughts you would like to offer us?

comments: *Have a nice day* 😊

Thank you for your participation in this survey. The results of the survey will be used to identify areas of concern for the study.

Submit