



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COUNCIL

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Dan Bartel
Bob Brown
Willis Curdy
Pat Flowers
Steve Hinebaugh
Theresa Manzella

HOUSE MEMBERS

Paul Fielder
Steve Gunderson
Jedediah Hinkle
Jonathan Karlen
Rhonda Knudsen
Marilyn Marler

COMMITTEE STAFF

Joe Carroll - Attorney
Jason Mohr - Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Mike Freeman
Dave Galt
Jim Keane
Jon Metropoulos
Dan Vermillion

MINUTES LOG

December 06, 2023

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Mike Freeman, Public Member
Dave Galt, Public Member
Sen. Steve Hinebaugh (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)
Jon Metropoulos, Public Member

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON:

Jim Keane, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Sen. Dan Bartel (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)

Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Dan Vermillion

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Carroll, Attorney - Via Zoom
Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

VISITORS' LIST ([Attachment 2](#))

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

10:04:37 Presiding Officer Gunderson called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

MEETING OVERVIEW

10:07:26 Jason Mohr, Research Analyst

10:11:39 Joe Carroll, Attorney

10:16:15 Presiding Officer Gunderson

10:16:24 Sen. Bartel joined the meeting.

10:16:35 Jon Metropoulos joined the meeting

10:17:01 Rep. Fielder directed a question to Joe Carroll.

10:18:10 Rep. Marler directed a question to Jason Mohr.

10:20:39 Presiding Officer Gunderson directed a question to John Olson, Remote Meeting Coordinator.

10:23:12 Rep. Marler

10:24:21 Rep. Fielder

REVIEW ON BALLOT INITIATIVE 193 – Revise lawful method of hunting on landowner's private property.

OPENING STATEMENT

10:24:59 Rick Schoening, Retired Game Warden, Lake County

PROPONENT PUBLIC COMMENT

10:30:45 Rep. Read, HD 93, Ronan

OPPONENT PUBLIC COMMENT

10:40:30 Patrick Yawakie, Director, People's Food Sovereignty Program, Flathead Reservation

10:46:22 Kathleen Hadley, Deer Lodge Valley

10:48:33 Kevin Farron, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Missoula

10:50:36 Randall Knowles, Great Falls

10:52:18 Frank Szollosi, Executive Director, Montana Wildlife Federation, Missoula

10:55:29 Jennifer Finley, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes Council, Polson

10:56:55 Rich Janssen Jr., Head of Department of Natural Resources, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

10:58:19 Mike Mershon

10:59:23 Jock Conyngham, reservation landowner and Montana Sportsmen Alliance, Evaro

11:01:52 Andrew Posewitz, Clancy

11:04:21 Tom McDonald, Chairman, CSKT

11:07:37 John Sullivan, Missoula

11:09:33 John Harrison, Staff Attorney, CSKT
[EXHIBIT 1](#) (Public testimony CSKT)

11:14:36 KC York, Trap Free Montana, Bitterroot Valley

11:16:07 Ta'jin Perez, Deputy Executive Director, Western Native Voice, Billings

CLOSING STATEMENT

11:19:55 Rick Schoening

QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE

11:24:35 Rep. Hinkle directed a question to Jason Mohr.

11:25:17 Presiding Officer Gunderson

11:25:36 Rep. Hinkle directed a question to Rep. Read.

11:33:09 Rick Schoening

11:35:41 Rep. Marler

11:36:27 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to Joe Carroll.

11:37:18 Rep. Fielder directed a question to Rep. Read.
11:39:14 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy directed a question to John Harrison.
11:46:05 Rep. Hinkle directed a question to Rick Schoening.

**COUNCIL ACTION TO "SUPPORT OR NOT SUPPORT PLACEMENT OF THE PROPOSED
STATEWIDE INITIATIVE TEXT ON HTE BALLOT" (13-27-228, MCA)**

11:48:52 Presiding Officer Gunderson

11:49:11 Jason Mohr

11:49:38 Rep. Marler

11:49:56 Jason Mohr

11:50:20 Rep. Marler

11:50:34 Joe Carroll

MOTION

11:51:23 Rep. Marler moved to support placement of the proposed statewide initiative text on the ballot.

11:51:32 Rep. Marler

11:52:43 Rep. Karlen

11:55:42 Sen. Hinebauch

11:56:16 Rep. Fielder

11:57:11 Rep. Hinkle

11:59:06 Council Member Keane

12:00:33 Rep. Karlen

12:01:33 Presiding Officer Gunderson

12:04:02 Joe Carroll

12:04:25 Rep. Marler

12:04:44 Joe Carroll

12:05:01 Council Member Keane

12:05:16 Vice Presiding Officer Curdy

12:05:47 Council Member Galt
12:06:17 Jason Mohr
12:06:32 Presiding Officer Gunderson
12:06:58 Jason Mohr shared the proxies for the councilmembers who are absent.

VOTE

12:08:02 Motion failed 8 – 8 by roll call vote with Sen. Curdy, Rep. Karlen, Rep. Marler, Dave Galt, Jim Keane, Jon Metropolous, and Dan Vermillion voting no and Sen. Flowers voting no by proxy.
12:10:08 Joe Carroll
12:10:46 Jason Mohr

ADJOURNMENT

12:11:13 Presiding Officer Gunderson adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m.