



SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESOURCE PLANNING AND ACQUISITION

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Mike Cuffe
Denise Hayman
Jacelyn Sterling
Daniel Zolnikov

HOUSE MEMBERS

Joshua Kassmier
Gary Parry
Katie Sullivan

COMMITTEE STAFF

Trevor Graff - Research Analyst
Jacelyn Sterling - Secretary
Jameson Walker - Attorney

PUBLIC MEMBERS

James Brown
Jason Brown
Cyndee Fang
Mark Klein
Darcy Neigum
Diego Rivas

MINUTES LOG

February 12, 2024

137

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.

Access to an electronic copy of these minutes and the audio or video recording is provided from the Legislative Branch home page at <https://leg.mt.gov>. From the home page, select the "Committees" drop down menu at the top, then select Administrative or Interim, and the appropriate committee. The written minutes log can be located by expanding the accordion menu for the date of the meeting. Links to the audio/video files can be located by selecting the Video/Audio button on the same page, then the "past/current recordings" button. From there, use the calendar to select the date of the meeting you wish to view/listen to. The written Minutes Log, along with links to the audio and video recordings, is listed by meeting date on the interim committee's web page. Each of the Exhibits is linked and can be viewed by clicking on the Exhibit of interest. All Exhibits are public information and may be printed. Please contact the Legislative Services Division at 406-444-3064 for more information.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)
James Brown, Public Member
Jason Brown, Public Member
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Cyndee Fang, Public Member
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Mark Klein, Public Member
Darcy Neigum, Public Member
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Diego Rivas, Public Member
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

Trevor Graff, Research Analyst

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary
Jameson Walker, Attorney

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))

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

COMMITTEE ACTION

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

09:05:14 Presiding Officer Daniel Zolnikov, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. The committee secretary took roll.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

09:06:33 Trevor Graff
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Public Comment

09:16:29 Sonja Nowakowski, Division Administrator, Air Energy Mining, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
09:18:47 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy
09:19:53 Irion Sanger

COMMITTEE QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL BILL DRAFT

09:25:34 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:26:19 Rep. Sullivan
09:26:45 Trevor Graff
09:27:02 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:27:07 Trevor Graff
09:29:27 Darcy Neigum
09:29:57 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:31:10 James Brown
09:31:20 Will Rosquist, Regulatory Division Administrator, PSC
09:33:28 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:33:36 Trevor Graff
09:36:32 Diego Rivas
09:38:46 James Brown
09:39:55 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:40:06 Sen. Hayman
09:40:57 Darcy Neigum
09:41:58 James Brown
09:43:21 Presiding Officer Zolnikov

09:43:32 James Brown
09:46:10 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:47:11 Cyndee Fang
09:47:55 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:48:49 Darcy Neigum
09:50:45 Mark Klein
09:54:29 Cyndee Fang
09:55:11 James Brown
09:56:12 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
09:58:53 Rep. Parry
09:59:43 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:00:02 Cyndee Fang
10:00:57 Rep. Parry
10:01:27 Cyndee Fang
10:02:12 Diego Rivas
10:05:50 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:07:20 Darcy Neigum
10:07:45 Sen. Cuffe
10:10:22 Vice Presiding Officer Sullivan
10:11:32 Sen. Hayman
10:12:14 Cyndee Fang
10:13:10 Sen. Hayman
10:14:19 Mark Klein
10:16:13 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:17:37 Darcy Neigum
10:18:37 James Brown
10:19:39 Sen. Cuffe
10:20:01 Rep. Parry
10:21:28 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:22:42 Sen. Cuffe
10:24:45 Vice Presiding Officer Sullivan
10:27:22 Darcy Neigum
10:27:42 James Brown
10:28:34 Will Rosquist, PSC
10:28:44 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:29:38 Rep. Kassmier
10:32:04 Cyndee Fang

Recess

10:32:56

Reconvene

10:47:40

Continued Committee Discussion on Potential Bill Draft

10:48:04 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
10:48:14 Will Rosquist
10:51:30 Rep. Parry
10:52:44 Trevor Graff
10:53:06 Diego Rivas
10:56:03 Rep. Parry
10:59:42 Diego Rivas
11:02:40 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:04:12 Diego Rivas
11:05:11 Chris Puyear
11:09:33 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:11:02 Cyndee Fang
11:12:27 Diego Rivas
11:14:29 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:15:28 James Brown
11:21:30 Sen. Hayman
11:24:35 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:26:42 Diego Rivas
11:27:56 Cyndee Fang
11:28:05 Darcy Neigum
11:29:58 Sen. Cuffe
11:32:11 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:36:56 James Brown
11:39:21 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:39:34 Cyndee Fang
11:40:05 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:41:08 James Brown
11:43:13 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:43:27 Rep. Parry
11:46:10 James Brown
11:47:00 Trevor Graff
11:48:22 James Brown
11:49:55 Darcy Neigum
11:50:47 Cyndee Fang
11:51:05 Trevor Graff
11:53:17 Sen. Cuffe
11:54:36 Diego Rivas

11:55:46 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:55:59 James Brown
11:57:21 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:57:30 Trevor Graff
11:58:21 Rep. Parry
11:58:56 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
11:59:29 Diego Rivas
12:01:07 Cyndee Fang
12:02:18 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:02:26 Sen. Cuffe
12:03:21 Trevor Graff
12:07:10 Diego Rivas
12:09:08 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:09:42 Trevor Graff
12:11:00 James Brown
12:11:06 Trevor Graff
12:13:18 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:16:33 Rep. Parry
12:17:16 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:17:32 Darcy Neigum
12:18:02 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:18:18 Trevor Graff
12:19:23 Presiding Officer Zolnikov
12:19:35 Sen. Cuffe
12:19:48 Trevor Graff

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:20:51