

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Derek Skees, on February 17, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Derek Skees, Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brittany Bury, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Audio Notification

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 346, 2/13/2021; HB 370, 2/13/2021; HB 387, 2/13/2021; HB 389, 2/13/2021

15:01:44 Chair Skees

HEARING ON HB 387

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:03:05 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 387, Revise small energy generation facility requirements and transition costs.

EXHIBIT(feh33a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:17:09 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
15:18:38 Makenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Counsel (NPRC)
15:19:48 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
15:20:26 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
15:22:44 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony:

15:23:53 Haley Beaudry, Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
15:34:16 Shelby DeMars, Montana Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MOGCC)
15:36:39 Molly Schwend, Montana Coal Counsel (MCC)
15:38:48 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
15:40:22 Charles Robison, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA)
15:43:38 Shelby DeMars, MOGCC
15:44:15 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
15:45:01 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 44 (IBEW44)
15:46:16 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council (MSBCTC)
15:46:59 John Johnson, IUOE 400
15:47:29 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip
15:49:11 Paul McKenzie, F. H. Stolze Land & Lumber Co.
15:53:42 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

Informational Testimony:

15:55:19 Robin Arnold, Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC)
15:55:35 David Klemp, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:56:12 Rep. Brewster
15:56:47 Rep. Stafman
15:57:46 Rep. Sullivan
15:58:06 Rep. Stafman
15:58:34 Rep. Custer
15:59:29 David Klemp, DEQ
15:59:53 Rep. Brewster
16:00:07 Rep. Stafman
16:00:24 Vice Chair Hayman
16:00:58 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip
16:02:04 Chair Skees
16:02:21 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip

16:02:31 Vice Chair Zolnikov
16:03:00 Rep. Stafman
16:05:20 Rep. Phalen
16:08:07 Rep. Stafman
16:09:19 Rep. Custer
16:10:51 Robin Arnold, MPSC
16:11:14 Rep. Stafman

Closing by Sponsor:

16:11:50 Rep. Stafman

16:18:03 Chair Skees

HEARING ON HB 389

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:19:45 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 389, Require certain power production facilities to file a bond.

16:20:15 Vice Chair Zolnikov assumed the chair

Proponents' Testimony:

16:23:00 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
16:23:47 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
16:37:14 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:25:09 Haley Beaudry, Colstrip Energy Limited Partnership (CELP)
16:31:04 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
16:31:55 Shelby DeMars, Montana Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MOGCC)
16:32:24 Molly Schwend, Montana Coal Counsel (MCC)
16:33:06 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
16:34:07 John Forkan, Montana State Construction and Building Counsel
16:34:38 John Johnson, IUOE 400
16:34:59 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Construction Workers (IBCW)
16:35:26 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
16:38:03 Erling Juel, self

Informational Testimony:

16:40:54 Jenny Chambers, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:41:18 Vice Chair Hayman
16:44:30 Jenny Chambers, DEQ
16:45:42 Rep. Kortum
16:46:21 Rep. Stafman

Closing by Sponsor:

16:48:20 Rep. Stafman

16:50:16 Vice Chair Zolnikov

HEARING ON HB 346

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:52:05 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB 346, Revise renewable energy laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:55:11 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

16:59:26 Commissioner Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County

EXHIBIT(feh33a02)

17:07:03 Shelby DeMars, Montana of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MOGCC)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:08:17 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

EXHIBIT(feh33a03)

17:14:16 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperative (MEC)

17:15:18 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

17:16:09 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

17:17:17 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

17:18:36 Roxa Reller, Northern Plains Resource Counsel (NPRC)

17:20:30 Colson Williams, Apex Solar LLC

17:23:28 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:26:21 Vice Chair Hayman

17:27:00 Chair Skees

17:29:59 Bob Story, MonTax

17:31:44 Chair Skees

17:35:58 Commissioner Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County

17:36:32 Rep. Custer

17:36:57 Commissioner Mike McGinley, Beaverhead County

17:38:42 Chair Skees

17:40:11 Jason Rittal, MACo

17:41:12 Rep. Custer

17:41:54 Jason Rittal, MACo

17:42:32 Chair Skees

17:43:10 Jason Rittal, MACo

Closing by Sponsor:

17:44:21 Rep. Welch

17:45:57 Chair Skees

17:46:13 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

17:48:01 Chair Skees

17:51:25 Rep. Phalen

17:51:33 Chair Skees

17:52:09	Trevor Graff, LSD
17:52:27	Chair Skees
17:52:38	Trevor Graff, LSD
17:53:19	Chair Skees
17:53:52	Rep. Olsen
17:54:13	Chair Skees

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:

17:55:08

Brittany Bury, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh33aad.pdf](#))