

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on February 1, 2007 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Debra Polhemus, Committee Secretary

**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 469, 1/25/2007; HB 474,  
1/26/2007; HB 481, 1/24/2007; HB  
356, 1/25/07 (continued)

**HEARING ON HB 481**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:21 Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on  
HB 481, Two years of delinquent property taxes required  
for tax sale.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:03:02 Mike Davis, Property Owner, Lewis & Clark County

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:05:50 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association

00:10:58 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association  
of Counties

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses**

00:11:47 Rep. Erickson

00:12:52 Rep. Ross

00:13:19 Rep. Lambert

00:14:31 Rep. Hilbert

00:16:53 Rep. Nooney

00:18:39 Rep. Erickson

00:21:26 Rep. Lambert

00:22:53 Rep. Blasdel

00:23:33 Rep. Ross

00:24:06 Chairman Lake

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:26:03 Rep. Scott Mendenhall

**HEARING ON HB 469**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:29:29 Rep. Walter McNutt (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 469, Clarify tax classification of wireless communication property.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:32:08 Amy Grmoljez, Verizon Wireless

00:34:59 Stacey Sprinkle, Director of State and Federal Tax Policy, Verizon Wireless

**EXHIBIT (tah22a01)**

00:40:28 Margaret Morgan, Alltel Communications

**EXHIBIT (tah22a02)**

00:43:04 Michael Strand, Chief Executive Officer, Montana Independent Communication Systems

00:47:34 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:48:37 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

00:49:32 Glen Gormely, President, Montana Information Technology Alliance (MITA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:50:58 C. A. Daw, Chief Legal Officer, Department of Revenue

00:56:03 Phil Maxwell, representing Three Rivers Cooperative Telephone

01:01:06 Geoff Feiss, General Manager, Montana Telecommunications Association

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:03:14 Rep. Erickson

01:07:36 Rep. Jopek

01:14:01 Rep. Hilbert

01:16:56 Rep. McAlpin

01:18:18 Rep. Nooney

01:26:02 Rep. Butcher

01:35:12 Rep. MacLaren

01:36:38 Rep. Ross

01:37:30 Rep. Erickson

01:38:33 Ed Caplis, Montana Department of Revenue

01:40:08 Rep. McAlpin

01:41:33 Rep. Cohenour

01:43:02 Rep. Jopek

01:47:27 Rep. Butcher

01:48:43 Rep. Nooney

01:49:33 Rep. Sonju

01:54:06 Rep. MacLaren

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:54:53 Rep. Walter McNutt

01:57:52 Break

02:13:13\_\_Reconvene

**HEARING ON HB 474**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:13:18 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 474, Exempt land under county roads from property taxation.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

02:17:28 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties

**Informational Testimony:**

02:20:53 Dallas Reese, Montana Department of Revenue

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:21:25 Rep. Nooney

02:24:37 Rep. Jopek

02:29:30 Rep. Erickson

02:32:54 Rep. Butcher

02:38:35 Rep. Ross

02:40:58 Rep. Bixby

02:42:55 Rep. Lambert

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:46:05 Rep. Wayne Stahl

**CONTINUATION OF HEARING ON HB 356**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

02:47:49 Rep. Michael Lange (R), HD 55, co-opened the hearing on HB 356, Reduce property taxes by changes in state aid to schools.

[EXHIBIT\(tah22a03\)](#)

02:50:53 Sen. Bob Story (R), SD 30, co-opened the hearing on HB 356.

[EXHIBIT\(tah22a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah22a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah22a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah22a07\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:58:12 Rep. Jopek

03:04:14 Rep. Erickson

03:11:22 Rep. McAlpin

03:17:38 Rep. Jopek

03:24:52 Rep. Cohenour

03:28:44 Ed Caplis, Montana Department of Revenue

**Closing by Sponsor:**

03:33:57 Sen. Bob Story

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:50 A.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah22aad.pdf](#))**