

## **MINUTES**

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

#### **COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Walter McNutt, on March 7, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Rep. Walter McNutt, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Ron Erickson, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Ralph Heinert, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Duane Ankney (R)  
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)  
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)  
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick (R)  
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)  
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)  
Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)  
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Krista Lee Evans, Legislative Branch  
Nancy Kraft, 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: SB 19, 2/27/2007; SB 25, 2/27/2007  
Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON SB 19**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:27 Sen. Dan McGee (R), SD 29, opened the hearing on SB 19, Revise laws governing oil and gas developers and surface owners.

**EXHIBIT (nah48a01)**

00:12:23 Break because of audio difficulties

00:19:56 Meeting resumed

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:26:49 Sen. Jim Peterson, SD 15

00:33:11 Brian Cebull, Nance Petroleum Corporation

00:38:54 Bruce Williams, Fidelity Exploration & Production Company

00:42:31 Jerome Anderson, Encore Acquisition Company

00:47:53 Patrick Montalban, Northern Montana Oil & Gas Association

00:54:34 Willie Duffield, Montana Association of Oil and Gas Producing Companies

00:55:30 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association

00:56:09 Tom Ebzery, Devon Energy

00:58:19 Ed Bartlett, Northern Alliance of Independent Oil and Gas Producers

00:58:53 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:59:39 Rick Moore, Northern Plains Resource Council

**Informational Testimony:**

01:04:44 Tom Richmond, Board of Oil and Gas Exploration

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:10:32 Rep. Erickson

01:11:01 Sen. McGee

01:13:20 Rep. Lambert

01:14:02 Mr. Anderson

01:15:17 Rep. Lambert

01:16:02 Mr. Montalban

01:16:53 Rep. Lambert

01:17:30 Mr. Williams

01:20:28 Rep. Dickenson

01:21:34 Mr. Moore

01:21:54 Rep. Dickenson  
01:22:22 Mr. Richmond  
01:23:14 Rep. Dickenson  
01:23:54 Sen. McGee  
01:24:40 Rep. Barrett  
01:28:52 Sen. McGee  
01:30:58 Rep. Heinert  
01:31:33 Sen. McGee

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:32:12 Sen. McGee  
  
01:37:54 Break

**HEARING ON SB 25**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:51:18 Sen. Lane Larson (D), SD 22, opened the hearing on SB 25, Revise contract timber harvest laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:52:53 Tom Schultz, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

**EXHIBIT (nah48a02)**

01:57:40 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

**EXHIBIT (nah48a03)**

02:00:01 Ellen Engstedt, Montana Wood Products Association  
02:03:28 Kathy Bramer, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
02:06:12 Daniel Watson, Rosebud County Commissioner; Montana Forest Counties Board of Directors

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

02:07:58 Rep. Vincent  
02:08:28 Sen. Larson  
02:09:35 Rep. Vincent  
02:12:07 Tom Schultz, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
02:13:08 Rep. Erickson  
02:16:24 Mr. Schultz  
02:17:21 Rep. Ross  
02:19:59 Mr. Schultz

02:22:19 Rep. Ross  
02:22:34 Mr. Todhunter  
02:23:15 Rep. Heinert  
02:25:09 Mr. Schultz  
02:26:10 Rep. Lambert  
02:28:37 Mr. Schultz  
02:29:48 Rep. Erickson  
02:30:49 Mr. Schultz  
02:32:34 Rep. McNutt  
02:33:10 Mr. Schultz

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:33:53 Sen. Larson

**ADJOURNMENT**

02:35:40 Adjournment: 5:40 P.M.

---

REP. WALTER MCNUTT, Chairman

---

NANCY KRAFT, Secretary

WM/nk

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([nah48aad.pdf](#))**