

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ALAN OLSON**, on March 19, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Alan Olson, Chairman (R)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Harry Klock, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Scott Boggio (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. Dave Gallik (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Bill Thomas (D)
Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Diane Rice (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Cindy Peterson, 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 369, 3/14/2007; SB 445,
3/15/2007; SB 448, 3/15/2007
Executive Action: HB 626, SB 60, SB 536, SB 369, SB
445

HEARING ON SB 369

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:46 Sen. Frank Smith (D), SD 16, opened the hearing on SB 369, revise PSC jurisdiction over rural cooperatives.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:51 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
EXHIBIT(feh58a01)

00:07:54 Ken Sugden, General Manager, Flathead Valley
Cooperative

EXHIBIT(feh58a02)

00:16:36 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives

EXHIBIT(feh58a03)

00:21:57 Mark Baker, Bresnan

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:25:42 Rep. Gallik
00:26:48 Mr. Wiens
00:27:12 Rep. Gallik
00:27:56 Mr. Wiens
00:28:58 Rep. Gallik
00:29:46 Mr. Wiens
00:30:21 Rep. Gallik
00:30:33 Mr. Wiens
00:31:30 Rep. Gallik
00:32:28 Mr. Wiens
00:34:24 Rep. Gallik
00:35:05 Mr. Sugden
00:37:06 Rep. Gallik
00:37:50 Mr. Sugden
00:38:23 Mr. Hardy
00:38:45 Rep. Gallik
00:38:52 Mr. Hardy
00:38:56 Rep. Gallik
00:39:10 Mr. Hardy
00:40:00 Rep. Gallik
00:40:34 Mr. Baker
00:45:19 Rep. Olson
00:45:36 Mr. Sugden
00:46:46 Rep. Olson

00:46:54 Mr. Sugden
00:47:18 Rep. Olson
00:47:26 Mr. Sugden
00:47:37 Rep. Olson
00:47:44 Mr. Sugden
00:48:08 Rep. Olson
00:48:14 Mr. Baker
00:49:14 Rep. Olson
00:49:23 Mr. Baker

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:43 Sen. Smith
[EXHIBIT](#)(feh58a04)

HEARING ON SB 445

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:51:56 Sen. Mitch Tropila (D), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 445, expand energy conservation and efficiency program.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:53:12 Lou Moore, Department of Environmental Quality
00:55:37 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:57:56 Sen. Tropila

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION REGARDING ASSIGNMENT OF BILLS TO FRET

00:58:50 Rep. Gallik
00:59:33 Rep. Olson
00:59:48 Rep. Gallik
01:00:02 Rep. Driscoll
01:00:21 Rep. Olson
01:00:37 Rep. Gallik

HEARING ON SB 448

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:01:19 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on
SB 448, ratepayer fiscal analysis for new power and
transmission projects.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:04:25 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center
01:06:50 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:08:44 Larry Nordell, Montana Consumer Counsel
[EXHIBIT \(feh58a05\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:10:30 Rep. Gallik
01:11:11 Sen. Wanzenried
01:11:23 Rep. Himmelberger
01:11:36 Sen. Wanzenried
01:12:17 Rep. Stahl
01:12:54 Sen. Wanzenried
01:13:23 Mr. Nordell
01:14:39 Rep. Olson
01:14:54 Mr. Nordell
01:15:26 Rep. Olson
01:15:43 Mr. Nordell

Closing by Sponsor:

01:15:56 Sen. Wanzenried

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 626

01:18:38 **Motion:** Rep. Gallik moved that HB 626 **DO PASS**.

Discussion:

01:19:48 Rep. Gallik
01:21:33 Rep. Windy Boy
01:22:10 Todd Everts, Legislative Environmental Analyst

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01:23:05 Rep. Groesbeck
01:27:42 Rep. Olson
01:29:34 Rep. Gallik
01:30:33 Rep. Olson
01:30:56 Mr. Everts

01:32:30 **Vote:** Motion failed 3-9 by roll call vote with Rep. Gallik and Rep. Groesbeck voting aye, and Rep. Jones voting aye by proxy and Rep. Rice voting no by proxy.

01:34:09 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Himmelberger moved that HB 626 **BE TABLED**. Motion carried 10-2 by voice vote with Rep. Gallik and Rep. Groesbeck voting no and Rep. Rice and Rep. Jones voting aye by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 60

01:34:59 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Boggio moved that SB 60 **BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 9-3 by roll call vote with Rep. Klock and Rep. Stahl voting no, and Rep. Rice voting no by proxy, and Rep. Jones voting aye by proxy. Rep. Jones will carry the bill on the House floor.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 536

01:36:56 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that SB 536 **BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 11-1 by voice vote with Rep. Groesbeck voting no, and Rep. Jones and Rep. Rice voting aye by proxy. Rep. Windy Boy will carry the bill on the House floor.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 369

01:39:06 **Motion:** Rep. Windy Boy moved that SB 369 **BE CONCURRED IN**.

01:39:16 **Motion:** Rep. Driscoll moved that SB 369 **BE AMENDED** (Exhibit 4).

Discussion:

01:40:07 Mr. Everts
01:40:27 Rep. Stahl
01:41:00 Mr. Baker
01:41:38 Rep. Windy Boy

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01:42:10 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote with Rep. Rice and Rep. Jones voting aye by proxy.

01:42:27 **Motion:** Rep. Jones moved that SB 369 **BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

01:42:37 Rep. Gallik

01:44:23 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-1 by roll call vote with Rep. Gallik voting no and Rep. Jones and Rep. Rice voting aye by proxy. Rep. Jones will carry the bill on the House floor.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 445

01:45:22 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Thomas moved that SB 445 **BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried 12-0 by voice vote with Rep. Jones and Rep. Rice voting aye by proxy. Rep. Thomas will carry the bill on the House floor.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:50 P.M.

REP. ALAN OLSON, Chairman

CINDY PETERSON, Secretary

AO/cp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([feh58aad.pdf](#))