

## **MINUTES**

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

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** By Chairman Bob Lake, on March 26, 2007 at 9:00 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. 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:** Rep. Norma Bixby (D)

**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: SB 539, 3/13/2007; SB 533,  
3/12/2007; SB 418, 3/12/2007  
Executive Action: SB 533

**HEARING ON SB 533**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:23 Sen. Mitch Tropila (D), SD 12, opened the hearing on SB 533, Adjust date of TIF valuation -- delaying circumstances.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

**Informational Testimony:**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:02:15 Sen. Mitch Tropila

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 533**

00:02:57 **Motion:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **SB 533 BE CONCURRED IN.**

00:03:04 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Ross made a substitute motion that **SB 533 BE TABLED. SUBSTITUTE MOTION CARRIED** unanimously by voice vote with Rep. Bixby voting by proxy.

**HEARING ON SB 418**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:03:30 Sen. Dan Weinberg (D), SD 2, opened the hearing on SB 418, Revise distribution of lodging facility use taxes.

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a04\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:24 Jan Metzmaker, Director, Whitefish Convention & Visitor  
Bureau  
00:10:58 Rhonda Fitzgerald, Volunteer Member, Whitefish  
Convention & Visitor Bureau  
00:13:30 Rep. Scott Boggio, HD 59, Red Lodge  
00:14:41 Don Kinney, representing Red Lodge Area Economic  
Development, Red Lodge Chamber of Commerce and Red  
Lodge Main Street Project

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:18:27 Rep. Lambert  
00:19:19 Sen. Weinberg  
00:20:15 Rep. Boggio  
00:21:04 Rep. Ross  
00:22:01 Rep. Erickson  
00:22:18 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue  
00:23:47 Rep. MacLaren  
00:24:56 Rep. Butcher  
00:29:01 Rep. McAlpin  
00:31:52 Rep. Jopek  
00:32:36 Rhonda Fitzgerald  
00:35:36 Rep. Grinde  
00:36:26 Rep. Nooney  
00:37:01 Rep. Butcher  
00:38:09 Rhonda Fitzgerald  
00:39:13 Rep. Butcher  
00:39:34 Gene Walborn  
00:43:10 Rep. Butcher  
00:43:24 Rep. Boggio  
00:44:25 Rep. Pomnichowski  
00:45:01 Chairman Lake  
00:45:54 Jeff Martin, Legislative Services Division  
00:46:40 Rep. Jopek  
00:46:53 Rep. McAlpin  
00:47:08 Rep. Erickson  
00:47:36 Chairman Lake  
00:48:24 Sen. Weinberg

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:49:06 Sen. Dan Weinberg

00:51:25 Chairman Lake

**DISCUSSION OF HANDOUTS CONCERNING HB 680**

00:52:06 Russ Hyatt, Department of Revenue

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a07\)](#)

00:55:41 Chairman Lake

00:56:04 Rep. Lambert

00:57:26 Rep. Nooney

00:58:13 Rep. Sonju

**HEARING ON SB 539**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:58:47 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 539, Revise property tax appeal and create property tax protest reserve fund.

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a08\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

01:08:38 Peggy Beltrone, Cascade County Commissioner

01:12:33 Gene Walborn, Department of Revenue

01:27:15 Bob Vogel, representing Montana School Boards Association

01:29:01 Tom Bilodeau, representing MEA/MFT

01:31:47 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

[EXHIBIT\(tah64a09\)](#)

01:37:09 John Prinkki, Carbon County Commissioner

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:38:48 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association

01:46:14 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

01:53:25 Webb Brown, representing Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Discussion and Clarification:**

01:54:01 Chairman Lake

01:54:22 Gene Walborn

01:57:04 Chairman Lake

01:57:22 Gene Walborn

01:57:39 Chairman Lake

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:57:51 Rep. Jopek  
01:59:10 Rep. Erickson  
02:00:01 Bob Vogel  
02:01:36 Rep. Erickson  
02:02:30 Bob Vogel  
02:03:35 Rep. Erickson  
02:04:20 Sen. Wanzenried  
02:05:02 Gene Walborn  
02:05:21 Rep. Butcher  
02:05:56 Gene Walborn  
02:07:24 Rep. Sonju  
02:10:22 Gene Walborn  
02:13:50 Rep. Ross  
02:14:55 Harold Blattie  
02:16:39 Rep. Ross  
02:16:46 John Prinkki  
02:17:05 Rep. Vincent  
02:19:44 Rep. McAlpin  
02:19:56 C. A Daw, Chief Legal Council, Department of Revenue  
02:24:34 Rep. Cohenour  
02:25:21 Harold Blattie  
02:27:12 Rep. Cohenour  
02:29:55 Rep. Lambert  
02:30:52 Harold Blattie  
02:31:56 Gene Walborn  
02:32:38 Rep. Lambert  
02:33:38 Harold Blattie  
02:33:53 Rep. Butcher  
02:39:10 Rep. Cohenour  
02:41:12 Rep. Cohenour  
02:41:22 Sen. Wanzenried  
02:41:59 Rep. Lambert  
02:42:58 Rep. MacLaren  
02:43:34 Sen. Wanzenried

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:43:57 Sen. David Wanzenried

02:49:20 Chairman Lake

**ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS:**

**EXHIBIT (tah64a10)**

Pertaining to SB 418

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

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REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

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DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

BL/dp

Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([tah64aad.pdf](#))**