

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
60th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN GREG LIND**, on March 16, 2007 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Greg Lind, Chairman (D)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzonried (D)

Members Excused:

Sen. Dan Harrington (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Claudia Johnson, Committee Secretary
Joe Kolman, Legislative Branch

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 427, 3/13/2007; HB 681,
3/12/2007; HB 739, 3/13/2007
Executive Action: None.

00:13:20 Chair Sen. Aubyn Curtiss

HEARING ON HB 427

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:13:49 **REP. BOB BERGREN (D), HD 33**, opened the hearing on **HB 427**, Revise universal system benefits law.

EXHIBIT (nas56a01)

00:17:33 Ed Eaton, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

00:17:59 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

00:18:24 Mike Lee, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)

EXHIBIT (nas56a02)

Proponents:

00:15:13 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:20:19 Jim Nolan, Low Income and Energy Assistance, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHA)

00:21:08 Rachel Haberman, Energy Share Montana

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:21:51 Sen. Tash to Jim Nolan, DPHHS

Closing by Sponsor:

00:22:40 Rep. Bergren

HEARING ON HB 681

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:23:17 REP. ROBYN DRISCOLL (D), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 681, Extend renewable portfolio act to competitive suppliers.

Proponents:

00:26:01 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

EXHIBIT (nas56a03)

00:28:18 Joe Mazurek, City of Great Falls

00:28:40 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

EXHIBIT (nas56a04)

Opponents:

00:29:08 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Informational Testimony:

00:31:11 Mike Lee, Public Service Commission (PSC)

EXHIBIT (nas56a05)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:57 Sen. Tash to Mike Lee, PSC

00:34:26 Sen. Tash to Rep. Driscoll

Closing by Sponsor:

00:35:30 Rep. Driscoll

HEARING ON HB 739

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:38:05 REP. ALAN OLSON (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 739, Review of certain municipal electric utility facility acquisitions.

Proponents:

00:42:08 Art Dolman, Self
00:43:29 John Lawton, City Manager of Great Falls
00:49:39 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
00:51:05 Patrick Judge, MEIC
00:52:12 Stewart Lewin, Self
00:56:44 Tim Gregori, Municipal Utilities, Great Falls
00:59:57 Dave Kelsey, Great Falls General Electric

Opponents:

01:01:57 JD Lynch, Montana State Building Trades
01:03:47 Olaf Stimac, North Central Construction Trades Council
01:05:09 Jason Miller, Montana State AFL-CIO
01:05:56 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

Informational Testimony:

01:10:29 Mike Lee, PSC

EXHIBIT (nas56a06)

01:11:25 Jordan Love, City of Great Falls

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:12:15 Sen. Tash to Rep. Olson
01:12:59 Sen. Tropila to Rep. Olson
01:18:24 Sen. Tropila to John Fitzpatrick, NWE
01:19:35 Sen. Tropila to Tim Gregori, Municipal Utilities, Great Falls
01:20:51 Sen. Wanzienried to John Lawton, City Manager of Great Falls

01:25:03 Sen. Wanzenried to Rep. Olson

01:26:35 Sen. Kaufmann to Rep. Olson

01:30:28 Sen. Tash to John Lawton, City Manager of Great Falls

01:31:58 Sen. Tropila to Rep. Olson

Closing by Sponsor:

01:33:53 Rep. Olson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:30 P.M.

SEN. GREG LIND, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

GL/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nas56aad.pdf](#))