

MINUTES

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

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN GREG LIND**, on March 30, 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. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)
Sen. Bill Tash (R)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)

Members Excused: None.

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 291, 3/27/2007; HJ 14,
3/27/2007; HJ 31, 3/27/2007; HB
328, 3/27/2007; HB 405, 3/27/2007;
HB 25, 3/21/2007
Executive Action: HJ 14, HB 291

00:04:12 Vice Chair Sen. Wanzenried

HEARING ON HB 291

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:06:44 **REP. JOHN (JACK) ROSS (R), HD 60**, opened the hearing on **HB 291**, Exempt commercial AG grinders from air quality permit requirements.

Proponents:

00:08:27 Sen. Bob Story

00:08:45 Steve Pilcher, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:10:05 Megan Brower, Montana Farm Bureau

00:10:31 Pat Torgerson, Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

00:11:09 Dave Kelsey, Farmer/Rancher

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:12:10 Dan Walsh, Air Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

00:12:36 Rep. Ross

HEARING ON HJ 14

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:15:08 **REP. RALPH HEINERT (R), HD 1**, opened the hearing on **HJ 14**, Urge congressional revision of laws on sale of public property.

Proponents:

00:17:01 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation (DNRC)

00:17:44 Dave Skinner, Montana Multiple Users Association (MMUA)

Opponents: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:18:36 Sen. Tash to Mary Sexton, DNRC

Closing by Sponsor:

00:19:27 Rep. Heinert

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 14

00:19:50 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TASH moved that HJ 14 BE CONCURRED
IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 291

00:21:00 **Motion/Vote:** SEN. TASH moved that HB 291 BE CONCURRED
IN. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON HJ 31

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:23:16 REP. GEORGE EVERETT (R), HD 5, opened the hearing on HJ
31, Urge opposition to Rockies Prosperity Act.

EXHIBIT (nas68a01)

Proponents:

00:24:31 Gary Hall, Montanans for Multiple Use

EXHIBIT (nas68a02)

00:27:51 Dave Skinner, Montana Multiple Users Association (MMUA)

EXHIBIT (nas68a03)

00:32:18 Rep. Chas Vincent

00:34:19 Clarice Ryan, Self

EXHIBIT (nas68a04)

00:40:36 Newton Haleblian, Self

00:46:07 Ron Olfert, Self

EXHIBIT (nas68a05)

00:50:20 Joyce Hollopeter, Self

00:50:59 Sen. Aubyn Curtiss

Opponents:

00:52:09 Steve Kelly, Alliance for the Wild Rockies

00:58:10 Don Judge, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:00:23 Sen. Curtiss

EXHIBIT (nas68a06)

Closing by Sponsor:

01:00:46 Rep. Everett

HEARING ON HB 328

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:05:10 **REP. WAYNE STAHL (R), HD 35**, opened the hearing on **HB 328**, Revise Major Facilities Siting Act.

Proponents:

01:07:51 Van Jamison, Energy and Wind Consultant

01:09:24 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical
Workers Local 44 (IBEW)

Opponents:

01:09:59 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

EXHIBIT (nas68a07)

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

01:13:81 Rep. Stahl

HEARING ON HB 405

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:14:53 **REP. MICHAEL LANGE (R), HD 55**, opened the hearing on **HB
405**, Increase natural resource development for low-cost
energy.

Proponents:

01:22:17 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association
(WETA)

01:23:20 Cary Hegreberg, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

EXHIBIT (nas68a08)

01:28:20 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association

01:28:30 Dave Kelsey, Director, Yellowstone Electric

Opponents:

01:31:18 Jeff Barber, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

01:34:40 Don Judge, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

01:38:21 Richard Parks, Northern Plains Resource
Council

01:41:30 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT (nas68a09)

01:44:06 Joe Brennen, Chairman of the Flathead County
Commissioners

01:44:36 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters

01:45:20 Evan Barrett, Economic Development, Governor's Office

01:48:06 Russ Doty, Green Buying Cooperative

01:50:27 Chuck Magraw, Natural Resource and Defense Council

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:51:42 Sen. Wanzonried to Rep. Lange

Closing by Sponsor:

01:52:03 Rep. Lange

HEARING ON HB 25

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:56:27 **REP. ALAN OLSON (R), HD 45**, opened the hearing on **HB 25**, Generally revise electric industry restructuring laws.

Proponents:

01:58:50 Greg Jergeson, Chairman, Public Service Commission
(PSC)

EXHIBIT (nas68a10)

02:11:18 Bob Raney, PSC

EXHIBIT (nas68a11)

02:19:12 Doug Mood, PSC

EXHIBIT (nas68a12)

02:31:21 Gerald Mueller, Self

EXHIBIT (nas68a13)

02:39:48 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

02:45:62 Chuck Magraw, Natural Resource and Defense Council

EXHIBIT (nas68a14)

Opponents:

02:47:18 Ken Toole, PSC

EXHIBIT (nas68a15)

02:49:41 Patrick Judge, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)

02:52:43 David Hoffman, PPL Montana, LLC

EXHIBIT (nas68a16)

03:08:23 Tim Gregori, Manager, Southern Montana Generation
and Transmission Cooperative, Inc. (SMGTC)

03:12:14 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

EXHIBIT (nas68a17)

03:15:58 John Lawton, City Manager, Great Falls

03:18:22 Chuck Magraw, Natural Resource and Defense Council

03:20:13 Bob Nelson, Montana Consumer Counsel

03:31:11 Colleen Balzarler, City of Great Falls

03:33:38 John Prinkki, President of Beartooth Electric
Cooperative

03:38:02 Dave Kelsey, Director, Yellowstone Valley Electric

03:39:19 Scott Sweeney, General Manager, Fergus Electric
Cooperative

03:43:13 Russell Doty, Executive Director, Green Electricity
Cooperative

Informational Testimony:

03:52:47 Brad Molnar, Public Service Commission (PSC)

[EXHIBIT \(nas68a18\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas68a19\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

04:05:59 Sen. Lind to Greg Jergeson, PSC

04:11:11 Will Rosquist, Attorney, PSC

04:14:03 Sen. Curtiss to Rep. Olson

04:15:45 Sen. Curtiss to Tim Gregori, SMGTC

04:18:58 Sen. Curtiss to Bob Raney, PSC

[EXHIBIT \(nas68a20\)](#)

04:22:30 Sen. Harrington to Rep. Olson

04:26:17 Sen. Lind to Gerald Mueller, Self

04:22:30 Sen. Kaufmann to Gerald Mueller, Self

04:36:12 Sen. Kaufmann to Bob Nelson, PSC

04:38:28 Sen. Lind to Bob Nelson, PSC

04:41:50 Sen. Curtiss to Rep. Olson

04:43:14 Sen. Curtiss to Tim Gregori, SMGTC

04:44:07 Sen. Curtiss to Brad Molnar, PSC

04:46:07 Sen. Curtiss to Doug Mood, PSC

04:51:44 Sen. Lind to Doug Mood, PSC

04:56:04 Sen. Lind to John Fitzpatrick, NWE

04:58:58 Sen. Gebhardt to Doug Mood, PSC

05:02:07 Sen. Lind to Will Rosquist, PSC

05:04:33 Sen. Lind to Bob Nelson, PSC

05:06:59 Sen. Gebhardt to John Fitzpatrick, NWE

05:10:47 Sen. Lind to Greg Jergeson, PSC

Closing by Sponsor:

05:13:44 Sen. Olson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 7:30 P.M.

SEN. GREG LIND, Chairman

CLAUDIA JOHNSON, Secretary

GL/cj

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nas68aad.pdf](#))