

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chairman Mike Milburn, on February 4, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Milburn, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gordon R. Hendrick, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Gerald Bennett (R)
Rep. Anders Blewett (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Betsy Hands (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Tom McGillvray (R)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Michele Reinhart (D)
Rep. Kendall Van Dyk (D)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Shirley Chovanak, 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 194, 1/28/2009 HB 178, 1/28/2009
SB 5, 1/28/2009, SB 25, 1/28/2009

Executive Action: None

00:00:00 Chairman Milburn

HEARING ON HB 194

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:13 Rep. Scott Mendenhall (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 194, Statutory appropriation for county payment from hard rock mining trust account.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:15 Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

EXHIBIT (nah26a01)

00:05:46 Maureen Davey, Commissioner, Stillwater County

EXHIBIT (nah26a02)

00:08:09 Dave Cole, Administrator, Community Development Division, Department of Commerce (DOC)

EXHIBIT (nah26a03)

00:09:01 Rep. Cohenour arrived

00:14:48 Ken Weber, County Commissioner, Jefferson County

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:16:49 Rep. Reinhart

00:17:04 Mr. Cole

00:17:27 Rep. Reinhart

00:17:35 Mr. Cole

00:17:49 Rep. Reinhart

00:18:06 Mr. Cole

00:18:58 Rep. Reinhart

00:19:04 Mr. Cole

00:19:36 Rep. Reinhart

00:19:41 Mr. Cole

Closing by Sponsor:

00:19:53 Rep. Mendenhall

HEARING ON SB 5

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:20:16 Sen. Ron Erickson (D), SD 47, opened the hearing on SB 5, Land board approval for abandoned mine and reclamation program land transactions.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:22:36 Jeanne Holmgren, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:23:22 Rep. Hoven
00:23:45 Sen. Erickson
00:24:16 Rep. Vincent
00:24:53 Rep. Dickenson
00:25:19 Sen. Erickson
00:25:30 Sandy Olsen, Informational Witness, Department of Environment Quality (DEQ)
00:27:20 Rep. Hendrick
00:28:01 Sen. Erickson
00:28:31 Rep. Hendrick
00:28:41 Sen. Erickson

Closing by Sponsor:

00:28:57 Sen. Erickson

HEARING ON SB 25

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:29:38 Sen. David Wanzenried (D), SD 49, opened the hearing on SB 25, Repeal certain contingent provisions in coal and uranium mine reclamation laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:31:10 John Arrigo, DEQ

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:38 Chairman Milburn

00:31:41 Mr. Arrigo

Closing by Sponsor:

00:32:54 Sen. Wanzenreid

HEARING ON HB 278

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:33:58 Rep. Bill McChesney (D), HD 40, opened the hearing on HB 278, Revise coal bond reclamation laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:39:46 Bud Clinch, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

[EXHIBIT \(nah26a04\)](#)

00:44:28 Rep. Van Dyk arrived

01:00:41 Todd O'Hare, Representative, Reo Tino America

[EXHIBIT \(nah26a05\)](#)

01:08:59 Neil Harrington, Chief of Industrial & Energy Minerals Bureau, DEQ

[EXHIBIT \(nah26a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:12:25 Julia Page, Northern Plains Resource Council

[EXHIBIT \(nah26a07\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:21:56 Rep. Pomnichowski

01:22:37 Mr. Clinch

01:22:48 Rep. Pomnichowski

01:23:04 Mr. Clinch

01:25:21 Rep. Pomnichowski

01:25:40 Mr. Harrington

01:26:48 Rep. Pomnichowski

01:27:09 Mr. Harrington

01:28:47 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:29:09 Mr. Harrington
01:30:38 Rep. Pomnichowski
01:30:53 Mr. Harrington
01:31:23 Rep. Miller
01:31:55 Mr. Clinch
01:33:33 Rep. Cohenour
01:34:17 Mr. Harrington
01:35:26 Rep. Cohenour
01:35:36 Mr. Harrington
01:36:40 Rep. Cohenour
01:37:04 Mr. Harrington
01:38:52 Rep. Cohenour
01:39:10 Mr. Harrington
01:39:59 Rep. Vincent
01:40:34 Ms. Page
01:41:15 Rep. Blewett
01:42:25 Mr. Harrington
01:45:01 Rep. Blewett
01:46:31 Rep. Reinhart
01:47:26 Ms. Page
01:48:07 Rep. Reinhart
01:48:31 Mr. O'Hare
01:49:31 Rep. Reinhart
01:50:07 Mr. Clinch
01:50:32 Rep. Reinhart
01:50:10 Mr. Clinch
01:51:44 Rep. Reinhart
01:52:37 Rep. Hands
01:53:58 Mr. Harrington
01:55:49 Rep. Hands
01:55:59 Mr. Harrington
01:56:50 Rep. Hoven
01:57:14 Mr. Clinch
01:58:01 Rep. Hoven
01:58:14 Mr. Clinch

Closing by Sponsor:

01:59:23 Rep. McChesney

02:03:10 Chairman Milburn
02:04:18 Rep. Pomnichowski

ADJOURNMENT

02:04:35 Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

Shirley Chovanak, Secretary

SC

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([nah26aad.pdf](#))