

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chairman Mike Jopek, on February 12, 2009 at 3:18 P.M., in Room 137 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Jopek, Chairman (D)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Julie French, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Russell Bean (R)
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Timothy Furey (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. David Howard (R)
Rep. Krayton Kerns (R)
Rep. Margaret MacDonald (D)
Rep. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Rep. Lee Randall (R)
Rep. Keith Regier (R)
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)
Rep. Janna Taylor (R)
Rep. Bob Wagner (R)
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Marshall McEwen, 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: HB 418, HB 445, 2/6/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON HB 445

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:26 Rep. Betsy Hands (D), HD 99, opened the hearing on
HB 445, Farmer protection bill--patented plants.

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:28 Dave Christensen, Self
00:19:35 Ole Norgaard, Montana Organic Association
00:22:55 Nathan Merrill, Self
00:25:18 Chris Stephens, Self
00:25:43 Jim Barngrover, Alternative Energy Resources
Organization

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a02)

00:30:38 Katie Knight, Alternative Energy Resources
Organization; Timeless Seeds Incorporated

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a03)

00:33:24 Richard Thieltges, Montana Flower and Grain

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a04)

00:36:57 Maxine Kormen, Self
00:38:24 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a05)

00:40:23 Julia Page, Northern Plains Research Council

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a06)

00:41:39 Cedron Jones, Self

Opponents' Testimony:

00:42:59 Ron Ueland, President, Westbred

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a07)

00:51:32 Mike DeVries, Self
00:53:55 Arleen Rice, Hi-line Chemical; Montana Agriculture
Business Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a08)

00:58:16 Bruce Wright, Self
00:59:04 Will Roehm, Montana Grain Growers Association
01:00:24 J.D. Lynch, Biotechnology Industry Organization

[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a09)

01:02:47 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Informational Testimony:

01:03:28 Cort Jensen, Chief Attorney, Department of Agriculture

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:05:38 Rep. Wagner
01:06:11 Mr. Ueland
01:06:14 Rep. Wagner
01:06:41 Mr. Ueland
01:06:51 Rep. Wagner
01:07:13 Mr. Ueland
01:07:53 Rep. Wagner
01:08:02 Rep. Dickenson
01:08:57 Mr. Barngrover
01:09:50 Rep. Dickenson
01:10:02 Mr. Barngrover
01:10:17 Rep. Dickenson
01:10:33 Dr. Dale Clark, Westbred
01:11:37 Rep. Hoven
01:11:59 Mr. Ueland
01:13:08 Rep. French
01:13:25 Mr. Christiaens
01:13:50 Rep. Hands
01:13:54 Rep. French
01:13:57 Rep. Hands

EXHIBIT (agh33a10)

01:20:02 Rep. French
01:20:13 Rep. Hands
01:22:14 Rep. Bean
01:22:48 Mr. Ueland
01:23:22 Rep. Bean
01:23:34 Mr. Ueland
01:24:12 Chairman Jopek
01:24:22 Rep. Furey
01:24:51 Rep. Hands
01:25:46 Rep. Belcourt
01:26:09 Mr. Jensen
01:26:33 Rep. Belcourt
01:26:43 Chairman Jopek
01:27:04 Rep. Caferro
01:27:34 Mr. Christensen
01:27:46 Rep. Caferro
01:28:49 Mr. Christensen
01:28:51 Rep. Caferro
01:28:55 Mr. Christensen
01:30:40 Rep. Wagner
01:31:15 Mr. Jensen
01:31:23 Rep. Wagner
01:31:32 Mr. Jensen

01:32:00 Rep. Wagner
01:32:08 Chairman Jopek

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:18 Rep. Hands
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a11)
01:39:17 Chairman Jopek
01:40:02 Committee takes a break.
01:50:47 Committee reconvenes.

HEARING ON HB 418

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:51:41 Rep. Edward Butcher (R), HD 29, opened the hearing on
HB 418, Authorize investor owned livestock slaughter
and processing plants.
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a12)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:12:50 Sen. Ryan Zinke, SD 2
02:15:00 Rep. Dickenson
02:15:11 Sen. Zinke
02:16:15 Chairman Jopek
02:16:39 Ron Burns, Self
02:20:01 Bob Hanson, State President, Montana Farm Bureau
Federation
02:21:46 Julie Wagner, Self
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a13)
02:24:58 Gary MacDonald, County Commissioner, Roosevelt County
02:27:18 Carl Seilstad, County Commissioner, Fergus County
02:28:30 Allan Underdal, Chairman, Toole County Commissioners
02:29:16 Wayne Pacheco, Self
02:31:24 Mack Cole, Self
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a14)
02:35:27 Gladus Walling, Self
02:37:21 Harley Rounds, Self
02:37:54 Linda Newman, Women Involved in Farm Economics
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a15)
02:43:24 Bill Parker, Billings Livestock Horse Sales
02:49:05 Rob Melcher, Self
02:50:35 Dick Lyman, Self
02:52:30 Donna Johnson, Self

02:53:54 Jan Parker, Self
[EXHIBIT](#)(agh33a16)
02:55:53 Jill Lane, Self

02:58:00 Dan Mortensen, Self
02:58:56 T.J. Butcher, Self
02:59:36 Mckensie Butcher, Self
03:00:29 Josh Butcher, Self
03:01:40 Travis Butcher, Self

EXHIBIT (agh33a17)

03:03:52 John Jensen, County Commissioner, Fergus County
03:05:09 Maxine Kormen, Self
03:08:25 Chairman Jopek
03:08:42 J.D. Svedberg, Self
03:09:55 Doretta Pecheco, Self
03:10:55 Dan Teigen, Self
03:16:24 Jan Finn, J Bar F Performance Horses, Townsend,
Montana
03:19:21 Garth Bascom, Self
03:20:18 Karli Phillips, Self
03:21:19 Ariel Overstreet, Montana Cattle Women
03:22:26 Eric Reilly, Montana Wool Growers

EXHIBIT (agh33a18)

03:23:44 Shane Varia, Self
03:24:05 Doc Rea, Self
03:25:02 Gail Vennes, Chairman, Broadwater County Commission
03:25:27 Scott Olsen, Self
03:26:20 Errol Rice, Executive Vice President, Stock Growers
Association and Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony:

03:33:06 Dr. Lisa Jacobson, President, Montana Horse Sanctuary

EXHIBIT (agh33a19)

03:48:41 Joan Specking, Self
03:53:05 Vic Andersen, Self
03:56:17 Jane Heath, Executive Director, Montana Horse Sanctuary

Informational Testimony:

03:58:06 Christian MacKay, Executive Officer, Montana Board of
Livestock
03:58:58 Jim Brown, Lobbyist, Stock Growers Association
04:02:06 Chairman Jopek
04:02:21 Mr. Brown

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

04:03:21 Rep. Wagner
04:04:05 Ms. Jacobson
04:04:09 Rep. Wagner
04:04:14 Ms. Jacobson
04:04:30 Rep. Wagner

04:04:34 Ms. Jacobson
04:05:04 Rep. Wagner
04:05:14 Ms. Jacobson
04:05:26 Ms. Heath
04:05:36 Rep. Wagner
04:05:50 Ms. Heath
04:06:34 Rep. Dickenson
04:07:28 Rep. Butcher
04:08:27 Rep. Dickenson
04:08:31 Chairman Jopek
04:08:36 Rep. Dickenson
04:08:44 Rep. Fleming
04:09:38 Mr. MacKay
04:09:48 Rep. Fleming
04:10:32 Mr. MacKay
04:11:07 Rep. Fleming
04:11:25 Mr. MacKay
04:11:58 Rep. Belcourt
04:12:17 Mr. Parker
04:12:18 Rep. Belcourt
04:12:34 Mr. Parker
04:12:50 Rep. Belcourt
04:13:06 Mr. Parker
04:13:08 Rep. Belcourt
04:13:24 Mr. Parker
04:14:18 Rep. Belcourt
04:14:26 Mr. Parker
04:14:51 Rep. French
04:15:26 Chairman Jopek
04:15:34 Rep. Warburton
04:16:35 Ms. Jacobson
04:17:41 Rep. Warburton
04:17:53 Ms. Jacobson
04:18:52 Rep. Furey
04:20:12 Mr. Rice
04:22:05 Rep. Furey
04:22:18 Mr. Rice
04:22:26 Rep. Furey
04:22:49 Chairman Jopek
04:22:57 Rep. Furey
04:23:06 Mr. Rice
04:23:38 Rep. Caferro
04:23:57 Mr. Anderson
04:25:18 Chairman Jopek

Closing by Sponsor:

04:25:52 Rep. Butcher
04:32:33 Chairman Jopek

ADJOURNMENT

04:33:57 Adjournment: 7:51 P.M.

Marshall McEwen, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([agh33aad.pdf](#))