

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chairman Art Noonan, on February 18, 2009 at 3:03 P.M., in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Art Noonan, Chairman (D)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Harry Klock, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Shannon Augare (D)
Rep. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Keith Regier (R)
Rep. Scott Reichner (R)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Staff Present: Bryce Bennett, Committee Secretary
Todd Everts, 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 483; HB 529; HB 566; HB 584;
HB 595; HB 597
Executive Action: None

00:02:03 Chairman Noonan asked that HB 483 and HB 566 be heard together without objection.

HEARING ON HB 483/566

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:59 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 483, Revising laws governing board of environmental review related to energy projects.

00:04:32 Rep. Wiseman arrived.

00:28:42 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 566, Revising environmental impact statement laws.

EXHIBIT (feh38a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:32:02 Terry Myhre, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)

EXHIBIT (feh38a02)

00:32:40 Sandra Broesder, Broesder Ranch Inc

00:34:33 Candice Payne, Southern Montana Generation and Transmission Cooperative

00:39:40 Leo Berry, Great Northern Properties and Energy Development

00:43:46 Cynthia Johnson, Commissioner, Pondera County Commission/ Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

00:45:10 Ken Johnson, Teton, Glacier, and Pondera Farm Council

00:46:31 Cheryl Curry, Pondera Regional Court Authority

00:49:40 Ted Kronebusch, Pondera Electrical Contractors

00:52:27 Carl Seilstad, Commissioner, Fergus County Commission

00:52:54 J.D. Lynch, Montana Building Trades Council

00:54:12 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) - Local #44

00:54:29 Olaf Stimac, Plumbers and Pipefitters - Local #41

00:55:13 Keith Allen, IBEW - Local #233

00:55:37 Al Ekblad, International Brotherhood of Industrial Workers - Local #400

00:56:15 Rob Van Beers, Tongue Bridge Power

00:59:01 Darrel James, self

01:00:26 Don Allen, Western Environmental Trade Association (WETA)

01:00:58 Brett Doney, Great Falls Development Authority

01:01:15 Vanessa Clark, Helena Chamber of Commerce/ Great Falls Chamber of Commerce

01:01:33 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association/ Carbon County Holdings LLC

01:01:56 John Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

01:02:09 Gail Abercrombie, Montana Petroleum Association/
Montanans for Responsible Energy Development

Opponents' Testimony:

01:02:58 Charlene Alden, Northern Cheyenne Nation
01:06:09 Alex Bonogofsky, National Wildlife Federation
01:09:20 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center
(MEIC)
01:18:42 Beth Kaeding, Northern Plains Resource Council
01:21:10 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
01:23:56 Clint McRae, self
01:27:13 Stuart Lewen, self
01:32:39 Wade Sikorski, self
01:34:43 Aart Dolman, self

EXHIBIT (feh38a03)

01:36:29 Neil Taylor, self

EXHIBIT (feh38a04)

01:36:55 Ron Mathsen, self

EXHIBIT (feh38a05)

01:37:30 Ken Morrow, self

EXHIBIT (feh38a06)

01:38:11 Arleen Boyd, self
01:39:11 Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, self

EXHIBIT (feh38a07)

01:39:33 John Marshall, self
01:39:56 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation
01:40:53 Paul Sihler, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

EXHIBIT (feh38a08)

01:41:09 Janet Ellis, Montana Audobon

Informational Testimony:

01:41:25 David Clemp, Montana Department of Environmental
Quality
01:45:54 Rep. Stahl arrived.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:41:53 Rep. Phillips
01:42:26 Ms. Hedges
01:43:03 Rep. Phillips
01:43:23 Rep. Jones
01:43:44 Rep. Phillips
01:44:10 Rep. Jones
01:44:16 Rep. Phillips
01:44:27 Rep. Jones
01:45:31 Rep. Phillips
01:46:21 Rep. Jones
01:46:31 Rep. MacLaren
01:46:53 Ms. Hedges

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01:48:14 Rep. MacLaren
01:48:28 Ms. Hedges
01:49:47 Rep. Reichner
01:50:26 Rep. Jones
01:51:58 Rep. Reichner
01:52:13 Rep. Jones
01:52:49 Rep. Jopek
01:53:15 Rep. Jones
01:53:20 Rep. Jopek
01:53:27 Rep. Jones
01:54:38 Rep. Jopek
01:54:45 Rep. Jones
01:57:45 Rep. Phillips
01:58:37 Rep. Jones
01:59:09 Chairman Noonan
02:00:55 Rep. Jones

Closing by Sponsor:

02:03:25 Rep. Jones

HEARING ON HB 529

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:09:08 Rep. Llew Jones (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 529, Generally revise MEPA.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:15:24 Ms. Johnson
02:15:47 Mr. Doney
02:17:23 Mr. Kronebusch
02:18:30 Ms. Curry
02:18:50 Brian Duvall, Montana Rural Education Association
02:19:33 Ms. Clark
02:20:11 Mr. Flynn
02:20:28 Mr. Stimac

Opponents' Testimony:

02:21:31 Ms. Ellis
02:24:55 Mr. Marshall
02:27:47 Ms. Kaeding
02:29:13 Chuck Magraw, Renewable Northwest Project/ Natural Resources Defense Council
02:31:34 Mr. Sikorski

Informational Testimony:

02:32:18 Mary Sexton, Director, Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Closing by Sponsor:

02:36:29 Rep. Jones

02:40:17 Break

02:46:52 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 595

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:47:36 Rep. Mary Caferro (D), HD 80, opened the hearing on HB
595, low-income telephone assistance for veterans.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:50:44 Alfred McGuire, self

02:54:54 Jim Jacobsen, Montana American Legion

Opponents' Testimony:

02:55:26 David Gibson, Qwest Communications

03:00:58 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association

03:02:51 Steve Maxwell, self

03:03:59 Bonnie Lorang, Montana Independent Telecommunications
Systems (MITS)

Informational Testimony:

03:05:08 Jim Nolan, Department of Public Health and Human
Services

03:05:31 Joe Foster, Montana Veterans Affairs Division

03:05:45 Greg Jergeson, Chairman, Public Service Commission

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:06:05 Rep. Boland

03:06:24 Rep. Caferro

03:07:08 Chairman Noonan

03:07:54 Mr. Jacobsen

03:08:48 Rep. MacLaren

03:09:12 Commissioner Jergeson

Closing by Sponsor:

03:10:13 Rep. Caferro

03:12:39 Chairman Noonan asked Vice Chair Driscoll to take over as temporary Chair.

HEARING ON HB 584

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:13:40 Rep. Art Noonan (D), HD 74, opened the hearing on HB 584, Siting process for wind energy.

Proponents' Testimony:

03:16:12 Ms. Ellis

EXHIBIT (feh38a09)

03:18:23 Mr. Magraw

03:19:51 Mr. Sihler

03:21:11 Mr. Marshall

03:21:58 Ms. Boyd

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Informational Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:25:48 Rep. O'Hara

03:26:08 Mr. Marshall

03:28:42 Rep. O'Hara

03:28:53 Mr. Marshall

03:30:58 Rep. Regier

03:31:14 Rep. Noonan

03:31:31 Rep. Regier

03:31:38 Rep. Noonan

03:32:13 Rep. Wiseman

03:32:53 Rep. Noonan

Closing by Sponsor:

03:33:20 Rep. Noonan

03:35:29 Vice Chair Driscoll closed the hearing on HB 594, and Rep. Noonan resumed as Chairman.

HEARING ON HB 597

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

03:35:44 Rep. Krayton Kerns (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 597, Lower utility rates.

Proponents' Testimony: none.

Opponents' Testimony:

03:37:37 Mr. Magraw

03:38:59 Chairman Noonan asked Vice Chair Driscoll to take over
as temporary Chair.

03:39:44 Commissioner Jergeson

EXHIBIT (feh38a10)

03:49:35 Ms. Hedges

03:50:16 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy

Informational Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Closing by Sponsor:

03:51:37 Rep. Kerns

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 6:56 P.M.

Bryce Bennett, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([feh38aad.pdf](#))