

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Lake, on March 23, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.,
in Room 152 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Mike Miller (R)
Rep. Art Noonan (D)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. Lee Randall (R)
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Jennifer O'Loughlin, 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 651, 3/18/09; HB 657 3/18/2009;
HB 658, 3/18/09; HB 663, 3/18/09

Executive Action: HB 648

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 648

00:02:25 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Cohenour moved that **HB 648 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Barrett, Rep. Blasdel, Rep. Jopek and Rep. Vincent voted by proxy.

00:02:35 Chairman Lake left the room and asked Vice Chairman Taylor to serve as Chair.

00:02:40 Rep. Barrett and Rep. Blasdel entered the room.

HEARING ON HB 651

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:08 Rep. Jill Cohenour (D), HD 78, opened the hearing on HB 651, Generally revising laws related to taxation.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:10:00 Dan Bucks, Director, Department of Revenue (DOR)
00:10:31 Rep. Noonan entered the room.
00:30:00 Vice Chairman Taylor
00:30:31 Gene Walborn, Bureau Chief, Business and Income Taxes Division, DOR

EXHIBIT (tah64a01)

00:36:33 C.A. Daw, Chief Legal Counsel, DOR
00:38:21 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, MEA-MFT
00:39:34 Tara Veazey, Montana Budget and Policy Center
00:40:48 Don Judge, Board Member, Working for Equality and Economic Liberation (WEEL)
00:41:43 Evan Barrett, Chief Development Officer, Governor's Office of Economic Development

Opponents' Testimony:

00:44:41 George S. Olsen, Montana Society of CPAs
00:50:34 Steve Turkiewicz, Montana Bankers Association

00:52:27 Mike Green, Montana Taxpayers Association
01:07:11 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce
01:08:58 Mike Pichette, Northwestern Energy
01:11:27 Jeff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association

Informational Testimony:

01:12:56 Karen Powell, Chairwoman, Tax Appeal Board

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:14:36 Rep. McAlpin
01:15:00 Mr. Bucks
01:16:47 Rep. McAlpin
01:17:04 Mr. Turkiewicz
01:17:22 Rep. Miller
01:18:11 Mr. Bucks
01:18:40 Rep. Miller
01:19:17 Mr. Bucks
01:20:30 Rep. Miller
01:21:00 Mr. Bucks
01:21:59 Rep. Miller
01:22:24 Mr. Daw
01:23:13 Rep. McAlpin
01:23:42 Rep. Cohenour
01:23:56 Rep. McAlpin
01:24:01 Rep. Cohenour

Closing by Sponsor:

01:24:11 Rep. Cohenour
01:29:18 Vice Chairman Taylor closed the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 657

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:29:32 Rep. Wayne Stahl (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on
HB 657, Study taxation of oil and natural gas property.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:31:58 John Alke, Valley County Exploration Company
01:34:25 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association
01:35:09 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

01:35:48 Gene Walborn, DOR

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:36:36 Rep. Cohenour

01:37:01 Rep. Stahl

Closing by Sponsor:

01:37:45 Rep. Stahl

01:38:15 Vice Chairman Taylor closed the hearing.

01:38:37 Break

01:47:15 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 658 and HB 663

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:47:32 Rep. Mike Jopek (D), HD 4, opened the hearing on
HB 658, Mitigate reappraisal.

[EXHIBIT \(tah64a02\)](#)

02:08:34 Rep. Mike Jopek (D), HD 4, opened the hearing on
HB 663, Generally revise taxes and mitigate
reappraisal.

[EXHIBIT \(tah64a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

02:19:10 Sen. Essmann, SD 28

02:20:58 Rep. Barrett, HD 93

[EXHIBIT \(tah64a04\)](#)

02:25:36 Sen. Gebhardt, SD 23

02:27:39 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Opponents' Testimony:

02:29:27 Tara Veazey, Montana Budget and Policy Center

02:34:42 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Association of County Treasurers

02:37:47 John MacDonald, City of Missoula

02:39:30 Vice Chairman Taylor

02:40:01 Joe Roberts, Montana Association of Realtors

02:56:06 Marshall D. Mahler, Montana Residents for Fair Taxation

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah64a05)

03:10:38 Ron Buentemeier, Montana Wood Products Association

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah64a06)

03:11:48 Jeff Clawson, Stolz Lumber

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah64a07)

03:13:31 Vice Chairman Taylor told the committee and audience
that informational witnesses and questions from the
committee would continue on Tuesday, March 24, at
8 a.m.

03:14:08 Rep. Jopek

03:14:45 Vice Chairman Taylor

ADJOURNMENT

03:15:01 Adjournment: 12:10 P.M.

Jennifer O'Loughlin, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([tah64aad.pdf](#))