

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chairman Mike Jopek, on March 24, 2009 at 3:17
P.M., in Room 472 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Jopek, Chairman (D)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Russell Bean (R)
Rep. Tony Belcourt (D)
Rep. Mary Caferro (D)
Rep. John Fleming (D)
Rep. Timothy Furey (D)
Rep. Brian Hoven (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)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: Rep. Julie French, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. David Howard (R)
Rep. Wendy Warburton (R)

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. Due to a committee break, several audio recordings were made to cover the entirety of the meeting. After the first part of the meeting and its audio recording, 48 seconds of silence was added to the final recording to represent the committee break before the second audio portion begins. The second portion of the audio recording for the meeting begins at the minute's stamp of 01:46:01.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 664, SB 286, SB 300, 3/20/2009

Executive Action: HB 664

HEARING ON SB 300

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:48 Sen. Donald Steinbeisser (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 300, Increase fertilizer fee check off to fund research and education.
00:02:32 Rep. French and Rep. Dickenson entered the room.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:44 John Lammers, Owner, Lammers Feed and Seed; Chairman, Fertilizer Advisory Committee

EXHIBIT (agh65a01)

00:08:05 Jeff Farkell, Central Crop Consulting Firm; Certified Crop Advisor; Member, Fertilizer Advisory Committee; Montana Agricultural Business Association

EXHIBIT (agh65a02)

00:10:16 Cathy Conover, Montana State University; Representing Jeff Jacobsen, Dean, College of Agriculture and Director, Montana Agriculture Experiment Station

00:11:06 Pam Langley, Montana Farmers Union; Montana Agricultural Business Association; Testimony of Don Steinbeisser Jr.

EXHIBIT (agh65a03)

00:12:51 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation; Montana Grain Growers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:15:08 Rep. Butcher
00:15:36 Sen. Steinbeisser
00:15:53 Rep. Butcher
00:16:22 Mr. Lammers
00:16:45 Rep. Butcher
00:17:20 Rep. Taylor
00:17:30 Andy Gray, Bureau Chief, Commodity Services Bureau, Montana Department of Agriculture
00:17:41 Rep. Taylor

00:17:48 Mr. Gray
 00:17:51 Rep. Taylor
 00:18:11 Mr. Gray
 00:18:18 Rep. Taylor
 00:18:35 Rep. Wagner
 00:19:33 Mr. Gray
 00:20:30 Rep. Wagner
 00:20:51 Mr. Gray
 00:21:28 Rep. Bean
 00:21:53 Sen. Steinbeisser
 00:22:09 Rep. French
 00:23:00 Mr. Gray
 00:23:17 Rep. Butcher
 00:23:58 Mr. Gray
 00:24:07 Rep. Butcher
 00:24:50 Chairman Jopek

Closing by Sponsor:

00:24:56 Sen. Steinbeisser
 00:26:23 Chairman Jopek
 00:26:40 Sen. Steinbeisser
 00:26:46 Chairman Jopek

HEARING ON SB 286

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:27:42 Sen. Taylor Brown (R), SD 22, opened the hearing on
 SB 286, Revise milk control laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:33:56 Rep. Warburton entered the room.
 00:34:10 Mark Meyer, Montana Milk Producers Association
EXHIBIT (agh65a04)
 00:37:16 Tim Huls, President, Huls Dairy
 00:39:10 Bob Bos, Self
 00:39:58 Les Graham, Self
 00:42:14 Laura Mitchell-Creaseon, Mitchells Milehigh
 00:46:14 Rob Miller, Country Classic Producer, Bozeman, Montana
 00:46:53 Sam Hofer, Surprise Creek Dairy
 00:47:13 Peter Stahl, Deerfield Dairy
 00:47:56 Eli Waldner, Chester, Montana
 00:48:18 Walter Wipf, Martinsdale Colony Dairy
 00:48:37 Ruben Wurz, Big Stone Colony Dairy
 00:48:55 Andrew Wipf, Big Stone Colony Dairy
 00:49:19 Ike Wurz, Cascade Colony Producers

00:49:46 Jock Anderson, Meadow Gold Dairies, Dean Foods

EXHIBIT (agh65a05)

00:54:56 Joe Kleinsasser, Golden Valley Dairy

00:55:11 Ruben Hofer, Spring Water Dairy

00:55:30 Mark Kleinsasser, Mountain View Dairy

Opponents' Testimony:

00:56:09 John Kauffman, Attorney, Country Classic Dairies, Inc.

EXHIBIT (agh65a06)

01:08:02 Shane Leep, Leep Dairy LLC

01:10:33 Krista Lee Evans, Country Classic Dairies, Inc.

EXHIBIT (agh65a07)

01:13:31 John Barrows, Executive Director, Montana Newspaper
Association

Informational Testimony:

01:18:02 George Harris, Administrator, Centralized Services
Division, Department of livestock

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:24:30 Rep. Butcher

01:25:07 Ms. Evans

01:25:24 Rep. Butcher

01:26:06 Mr. Harris

01:26:52 Rep. Wagner

01:27:30 Mr. Harris

01:27:41 Rep. Wagner

01:28:03 Mr. Harris

01:28:39 Rep. Wagner

01:29:03 Mr. Harris

01:29:46 Rep. Hoven

01:29:58 Mr. Kauffman

01:31:28 Rep. Taylor

01:31:58 Mr. Harris

01:32:31 Rep. Taylor

01:32:56 Sen. Brown

01:33:06 Rep. Dickenson

01:34:01 Mr. Graham

01:35:23 Rep. French

01:36:05 Mr. Harris

01:36:12 Rep. French

01:36:21 Mr. Harris

01:36:51 Rep. Belcourt

01:37:09 Sen. Brown

01:38:21 Chairman Jopek

Closing by Sponsor:

01:38:26 Sen. Brown

01:43:55 Chairman Jopek

01:44:29 Committee takes a break to reconvene on the House floor: 5:01 P.M.

01:46:00 Committee reconvenes from the House floor: 6:06 P.M.
Chairman Jopek turned over the gavel to Vice Chairwoman French. Rep. Howard was not present after the break.

HEARING ON HB 664

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:46:15 Rep. Mike Jopek (D), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 664, Interim committee to study revision of milk laws--approp.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:48:14 Krista Lee Evans, Country Classic Dairies, Inc.

Opponents' Testimony:

01:50:38 Laura Mitchell-Creaseon, Mitchells Milehigh

01:51:28 Mark Meyer, Montana Milk Producers Association

01:52:24 Rob Miller, Country Classic Producer, Bozeman, Montana

01:53:24 Margaret Morgan, On Behalf of Milk Producers Around Montana

EXHIBIT (agh65a08)

01:54:34 Jock Anderson, Meadow Gold Dairies, Dean Foods

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:55:50 Chairman Jopek

01:56:29 Vice Chairwoman French

01:56:48 Vice Chairwoman French turned the gavel back over to Chairman Jopek.

01:57:19 Rep. Butcher

01:57:52 Chairman Jopek

01:58:11 Rep. Butcher

01:58:20 Chairman Jopek

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 664

01:58:46 **Motion:** Rep. Dickenson moved that **HB 664 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

02:00:15 Rep. Furey
02:01:01 Rep. Hoven
02:02:05 Rep. Warburton
02:02:36 Chairman Jopek
02:03:10 Rep. Wagner
02:04:40 Rep. Butcher
02:07:01 Rep. Belcourt
02:07:32 Rep. French
02:08:06 Chairman Jopek

02:08:15 **Vote:** Motion carried 16-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Butcher, Rep. Hoven, Rep. Howard, and Rep. Kerns voting no. Rep. Howard voted by proxy.

02:09:26 Chairman Jopek
02:09:48 Rep. Furey
02:09:57 Chairman Jopek
02:10:51 Rep. Butcher
02:11:02 Chairman Jopek

ADJOURNMENT

02:11:25 Adjournment: 6:31 P.M.

Marshall McEwen, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([agh65aad.pdf](#))