

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Call to Order: CHAIRMAN JOHN ESP, on January 14, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. John Esp, Chairman (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Gregory D. Barkus (R)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. Steven Gallus (D)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
Sen. Jesse Laslovich (D)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leanne Heisel, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, 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: SB 8, 1/6/2009; SB 110, 1/6/2009

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 110

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:02:56 **SEN. RICK RIPLEY (R), SD 9**, opened the hearing on
SB 110, Volunteer firefighter participation in county
health insurance pool.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:01 Richard Van Auken, Teton County Fire Chief
00:08:25 Bob Drake, Fire Chief Tri-Lakes Volunteer Fire Company,
Helena
00:10:43 Jim Dusenberry, Montana Fire District Association

Opponents' Testimony:

00:11:30 Bob Worthington, representing Montana Municipal
Insurance Authority (MMIA)
00:13:59 Sheryl Wood, Associate Director, Montana Association of
Counties (MACo)

EXHIBIT(los08a01)

Informational Testimony:

00:16:23 Ted Mead, Chief Fire and Aviation Manager, Department
of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

EXHIBIT(los08a02)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:17:46 Sen. Barkus
00:18:29 Sen. Ripley
00:19:00 Sen. Barkus
00:19:13 Bob Worthington, MMIA
00:20:31 Sen. Erickson
00:20:59 Sheryl Wood, MACo
00:22:24 Sen. Erickson
00:23:28 Chairman Esp
00:23:49 Bob Worthington, MMIA
00:25:31 Leanne Heisel, Legislative Services Division
00:25:59 Sen. Gillan

Closing by Sponsor:

00:26:59 Sen. Ripley

HEARING ON SB 8

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:30:26 **SEN. KEN (KIM) HANSEN (D), SD 17**, opened the hearing on **SB 8**, Authorize charter form of government for regional water entities.

Informational Testimony:

00:34:12 Dan Clark, Local Government Center, Montana State University (MSU)

EXHIBIT(los08a03)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:42:30 Rep. Wayne Stahl, HD 35

00:44:57 Lt. Governor John Bohlinger, also Co-Chairman, St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group

EXHIBIT(los08a04)

00:50:10 Paul Azevedo, DNRC

00:51:32 Former Rep. John Musgrove, self

00:54:56 Rep. Wendy Warburton, HD 64

00:57:26 Sen. Jerry Black, SD 14

00:58:15 Speaker Bob Bergren, HD 33

00:58:57 Jeff Tieberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

00:59:40 Pam Lemer, Economic Development District

01:00:14 Mark Manoukian, member St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group and representing Phillips Country Economic Development Council

01:01:18 Mike Murphy, representing Montana Water Resources Council

01:01:53 Paul Tuss, Havre, self

01:02:15 Gary Anderson, Member, St. Mary's working group, representing City of Chinook

01:04:14 Mike DesRosier, member Blackfeet Tribe, also speaking for Glacier County Commissioners

01:05:36 Jennifer Brandon, Milk River Joint Irrigation Board of Control

01:05:54 Steve Page, Rancher

01:06:20 Roger Running Crane, representing Blackfeet Business Council

EXHIBIT(los08a05)

01:12:30 Wade Jones, Irrigator, Malta, and Chairman, Malta Irrigation District

01:13:13 Larry Mires, Executive Director, St. Mary's Rehabilitation Working Group

Opponents' Testimony:

01:15:35 Sen. Jonathon Windy Boy, SD 16

[EXHIBIT\(los08a06\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(los08a07\)](#)

01:18:12 Darrell James, representing City of Missoula

[EXHIBIT\(los08a08\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

01:20:03 Alec Hansen, representing Montana League of Cities and Towns

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:22:33 Sen. Gillan
01:23:53 Dan Clark, MSU
01:27:05 Sen. Gillan
01:27:26 Rep. Stahl
01:28:53 Sen. Gillan
01:29:03 Roger Running Crane
01:29:37 Sen. Erickson
01:29:50 Rep. Stahl
01:34:21 Sen. Erickson
01:34:45 Rep. Stahl
01:36:35 Sen. Tutvedt
01:37:11 Rep. Stahl
01:38:14 Sen. Tutvedt
01:38:34 Roger Running Crane
01:39:22 Sen. Essmann
01:40:29 Former Rep. John Musgrove
01:41:07 Sen. Essmann
01:42:19 Sen. Hansen
01:42:58 Sen. Barkus
01:43:34 Larry Mires
01:46:17 Sen. Barkus
01:46:49 Rep. Stahl
01:48:06 Sen. Essmann
01:48:37 Larry Mires
01:51:19 Sen. Gallus
01:51:35 Paul Azevedo
01:52:18 Chairman Esp
01:53:08 Alec Hansen
01:53:41 Chairman Esp
01:54:37 Sen. Hansen

Closing by Sponsor:

01:54:49 Sen. Ken Hansen

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:10 P.M.

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([los08aad.pdf](#))