

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** CHAIRMAN KELLY GEBHARDT, on January 19, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 422 Capitol.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Kelly Gebhardt, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Debby Barrett, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss (R)  
Sen. Ken (Kim) Hansen (D)  
Sen. Jim Keane (D)  
Sen. Gary L. Perry (R)  
Sen. Donald J. Steinbeisser (R)  
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)  
Sen. David E. Wanzenried (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)  
Sen. Jim Peterson (R)

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Lindsey Hern, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, 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: SB 107, 1/14/2009; SB 111,  
1/14/2009; SB 113, 1/14/2009

Executive Action: SB 22, 1/19/2009

Additional Exhibits Related to SB 94:

[EXHIBIT \(nas12a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(nas12a02\)](#)

Sen. Kaufmann came into the Committee after roll call

**HEARING ON SB 111**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:23 SEN. RICK RIPLEY (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 111, Clarifying DNRC initial wildland fire attack authority.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:14 Richard Van Auken, Teton County Fire Chief

00:05:32 Richard E. Grady, Canyon Creek

[EXHIBIT \(nas12a03\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:06:01 Bob Harrington, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT \(nas12a04\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:09:50 Sen. Curtiss

00:10:13 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

00:10:34 Sen. Curtiss

00:10:55 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

00:11:17 Sen. Curtiss

00:11:28 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

00:11:56 Sen. Curtiss, DNRC

00:12:09 Mr. Harrington, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:12:57 Sen. Ripley

**HEARING ON SB 113**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:14:37 **SEN. JIM KEANE (D), SD 38**, opened the hearing on **SB 113**, State land fuel reduction pilot program.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:20:24 Pat McKelvey, Fire Safe Montana  
00:21:20 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association  
00:22:30 Gloria Flora, Attainable Solutions  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a05\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a06\)](#)

00:29:03 Robert Johnson, Montana Smurfit Stone Container

**Opponents' Testimony:**

None

**Informational Testimony:**

00:29:42 Tom Schultz, DNRC  
00:30:35 Bob Harrington, DNRC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:33:44 Sen. Debby Barrett  
00:34:06 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
00:35:09 Sen. Barrett  
00:35:36 Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Service Division (LSD)  
00:36:15 Sen. David Wanzenried  
00:36:52 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
00:38:03 Sen. Wanzenried  
00:38:36 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
00:38:44 Mr. Schultz, DNRC  
00:39:15 Sen. Wanzenried  
00:39:38 Mr. Schultz, DNRC  
00:40:26 Sen. Wanzenried  
00:40:46 Mr. Schultz, DNRC  
00:41:44 Sen. Christine Kaufmann  
00:42:23 Mr. Schultz, DNRC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:43:27 Sen. Keane

00:45:03 Chairman Gebhardt  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a07\)](#)

**HEARING ON SB 107**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:45:34 SEN. DAVE LEWIS (R), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 107, Require training on mechanized fuels reduction and fire suppression equipment.

[EXHIBIT \(nas12a08\)](#)

00:52:39 Sen. Peterson returned

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:53:27 Janis Grosfield, Drummond  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a09\)](#)  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a10\)](#)

00:57:41 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association  
00:58:11 David Russell, Past president Northern Rockies  
Contracting Association, Bushfire-Bozeman  
01:00:07 Pat McKelvey, Fire Safe Montana

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:02:15 Kevin Mergenthaler, President Fire Chiefs' Association,  
Fire Alliance

**Informational Testimony:**

01:03:45 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
[EXHIBIT \(nas12a11\)](#)

01:10:43 Butch Weedon, Director of Full Services and Training  
School  
01:11:12 Dave Larsen

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:13:43 Sen. Ken Hansen  
01:14:27 Mr. Weedon, Full Services and Training School  
01:14:47 Sen. Wanzenried  
01:15:20 Sen. Lewis  
01:16:31 Sen. Wanzenried

01:16:52 Sen. Lewis  
01:17:19 Sen. Wanzenried  
01:17:28 Sen. Lewis  
01:18:00 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:18:17 Mr. Weedon, Full Services and Training School  
01:18:43 Sen. Kaufmann  
01:18:54 Mr. Weedon, Full Services and Training School  
01:19:21 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:19:47 Mr. Russell

**EXHIBIT (nas12a12)**

01:20:25 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:22:04 Mr. Harrington, DNRC  
01:25:49 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:26:40 Mr. Larsen  
01:28:47 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:29:06 Mr. Larsen  
01:30:04 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:30:27 Mr. Weedon, Full Services and Training School  
01:31:34 Chairman Gebhardt

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:32:05 Sen. Lewis

**EXHIBIT (nas12a13)**

**Water Quality Subcommittee Report**

**SB 22 and SB 4**

01:35:49 Sen. Barrett  
01:37:46 Chairman Gebhardt

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 22**

01:38:59 **Motion:** SEN. PETERSON moved that **SB 22 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

(Discussion included what form the motion should take since SB 22 was passed out of committee as amended and re-referred to the committee in the amended form; the original motion was correct and the corrected wording for the vote follows.)

01:40:12 Sen. Barrett  
01:40:40 Sen. Wanzenried  
01:41:35 Chairman Gebhardt  
01:41:42 Sen. Peterson  
01:42:22 Mrs. Nowakowski

01:42:55 **Vote:** Motion that **SB 22 DO PASS** carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:45 P.M.

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LINDSEY HERN, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

**EXHIBIT ([nas12aad.pdf](#))**