

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: CHAIRMAN JERRY W. BLACK, on January 20, 2009 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jerry W. Black, Chairman (R)
Sen. Aubyn Curtiss, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Roy Brown (R)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Sharon Stewart-Peregoy (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Bob Hawks (D)
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)
Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch
Nadine Spencer, 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 178, 1/12/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 178

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:30 SEN. KELLY GEBHARDT (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 178, Establish avoided cost tariffs for qualifying facilities.

00:02:00 Sen. Hawks entered the hearing

00:03:09 Sen Tropila entered the hearing

Proponents' Testimony:

00:05:52 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy
[EXHIBIT\(ens13a01\)](#)

00:21:01 John Alke, Montana Dakota Utilities
[EXHIBIT\(ens13a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:27:40 Suzanne Bessette, Montana Small Independent Renewable
Generators (MSIRG)
[EXHIBIT\(ens13a03\)](#)

00:32:37 Benjamin Singer, (MSIRG)
00:35:38 David Healow, Two Dot Wind
00:42:18 Greg Jergeson, Montana Public Service Commission
[EXHIBIT\(ens13a04\)](#)

00:49:19 Michael Uda, Helena attorney representing MSIRG

Informational Testimony:

00:54:06 Brad Molnar, Public Service Commission
[EXHIBIT\(ens13a05\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:02:43 Sen. Erickson
01:03:22 Greg Jergeson
01:04:40 Sen. Erickson
01:04:50 Greg Jergeson
01:05:59 Sen. Lewis
01:06:36 David Healow
01:06:53 Sen. Lewis
01:07:14 David Healow
01:08:27 Sen. Lewis

01:08:36 Sen. Hawks
01:09:37 Greg Jergeson
01:11:39 Sen. Hawks
01:11:51 Greg Jergeson
01:12:28 Sen. Esp
01:13:10 Greg Jergeson
01:14:13 Sen. Esp
01:14:39 Greg Jergeson
01:15:39 Sen. Esp
01:16:09 Greg Jergeson
01:16:19 Sen. Esp
01:16:56 John Fitzpatrick
01:18:34 Sen. Esp
01:18:47 Sen. Brown
01:19:54 Brad Molnar
01:21:48 Sen. Brown
01:22:25 Greg Jergeson
01:23:32 Sen. Brown
01:23:49 Greg Jergeson
01:24:03 Sen. Esp
01:24:29 John Fitzpatrick
01:25:18 Sen. Erickson
01:26:28 Suzanne Bessette
01:27:52 Sen. Erickson
01:28:29 John Fitzpatrick
01:30:15 Sen. Erickson
01:30:52 John Fitzpatrick
01:32:01 Sen. Erickson
01:32:06 John Fitzpatrick
01:32:52 Sen. Tropila
01:33:14 Suzanne Bessette
01:33:51 Sen. Tropila
01:34:06 John Fitzpatrick
01:34:18 Sen. Tropila
01:34:32 Suzanne Bessette
01:34:52 Sen. Tropila
01:35:36 John Fitzpatrick
01:37:00 Sen. Tropila
01:38:06 Greg Jergeson
01:38:50 Sen. Tropila
01:39:30 Greg Jergeson
01:39:59 Sen. Tropila
01:40:10 John Alke
01:41:07 Sen. Tropila
01:41:26 John Alke
01:42:19 Sen. Tropila

Closing by Sponsor:

01:42:33 Sen. Gebhardt

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:45 P.M.

NADINE SPENCER, Secretary

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Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([ens13aad.pdf](#))