

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chairman Jeff Essmann, on March 4, 2009 at
8:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jeff Essmann, Chairman (R)
Sen. Taylor Brown, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Gary Branae (D)
Sen. Ron Erickson (D)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Kim Gillan (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lee Heiman, 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 419, 2/10/2009; SB 455,
2/12/2009; SB 456, 2/12/2009

Executive Action: None

HEARING ON SB 455

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:00:36 Sen. Greg Hinkle (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 455, Allow a deferral of the payment of property taxes.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

00:07:22 Ronda Wiggers, representing Montana County Treasurers' Association
00:12:44 Jenny Reinhardt, Valley County/Glasgow County Treasurer
00:18:55 L. Harold Blattie, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
00:19:17 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, MEA/MFT
00:22:33 Bob Vogel, representing Montana School Board Association (MSBA) also speaking for Linda Brannen, Indian Schools of Montana

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:42 Sen. Story
00:25:21 Bob Vogel, MSBA
00:26:09 Sen. Kaufmann
00:26:32 Sen. Hinkle
00:27:01 Chairman Essmann
00:27:28 Jenny Reinhardt

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:56 Sen. Hinkle

HEARING ON SB 456

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:33:53 Sen. Carol Juneau (D), SD 8, opened the hearing on SB 456, Exempt tribally owned property from property taxes.

[**EXHIBIT\(tas48a01\)**](#)

[**EXHIBIT\(tas48a02\)**](#)

[**EXHIBIT\(tas48a03\)**](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:41:10 Rep. Shannon Augare, HD 16, Browning

EXHIBIT (tas48a04)

00:43:05 Cedric Black Eagle, Interim Chairman, Crow Tribe

00:44:33 Mark McGee, Director, Land Department, Blackfeet Tribe

00:49:15 Willie A. Sharp, Chairman, Blackfeet Tribe

00:54:28 Connie Bremner, enrolled elder, Blackfeet Tribe

00:56:23 Pam Bucy, representing Confederated Salish Kootenai
Tribe (CSKT) and Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council

EXHIBIT (tas48a05)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:57:42 L. Harold Blattie, representing Montana Association of
Counties (MACo)

EXHIBIT (tas48a06)

EXHIBIT (tas48a07)

Whereas Mr. Blattie presented Exhibit 7 during his
testimony, the Exhibit is correspondence from Michael
DesRosier, Glacier County Commissioner dated March 3,
2009 and is proponent testimony.

Informational Testimony:

00:59:18 Randy Wilke, Department of Revenue (DOR)

00:59:29 Charlena Toro, Legal Counsel, DOR

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:59:57 Sen. Tutvedt

01:00:22 Randy Wilke, DOR

01:01:01 Sen. Tutvedt

01:01:17 Pam Bucy, CSKT

01:01:49 Mark McGee, Blackfeet Tribe

01:02:36 Sen. Story

01:03:05 Mark McGee

01:04:46 Sen. Story

01:05:26 Mark McGee

01:06:37 Sen. Erickson

01:07:05 Mark McGee

01:08:12 Sen. Erickson

01:08:57 Sen. Juneau

01:09:22 Sen. Gillan arrived at hearing

01:11:00 Sen. Erickson

01:11:26 Randy Wilke, DOR

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: (Con't)

01:11:50 Andrew Huff, Legal Counsel, Budget and Program Planning
Office, Office of the Governor (without objection from
the Committee)
01:13:19 Sen. Kaufmann
01:13:52 L. Harold Blattie, MACo
01:17:43 Sen. Black
01:18:12 Mark McGee
01:20:47 Sen. Black
01:21:04 Randy Wilke
01:21:40 Sen. Tutvedt
01:21:57 Sen. Juneau

EXHIBIT (tas48a08)

01:22:29 Andrew Huff
01:23:18 Sen. Tutvedt
01:23:30 Mark McGee
01:24:51 Chairman Essmann
01:25:29 L. Harold Blattie
01:26:25 Sen. Black
01:27:00 Sen. Juneau
01:28:22 Mark McGee
01:29:49 Sen. Black
01:30:02 Mark McGee

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:05 Sen. Juneau

EXHIBIT (tas48a09)

01:38:13 Recess

01:48:43 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 419

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:49:00 Sen. Verdell Jackson (R), SD 5, opened the hearing on
SB 419, TIF for county roads.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:02:31 Paul Abel, Kalispell resident

[EXHIBIT \(tas48a10\)](#)

02:10:49 Charles Lapp, Flathead area resident

02:16:00 Mike Schlegel, Flathead County Road Advisory Board,
also Trustee, School District #29, Somers

02:19:30 Dustin Stewart, Executive Director, Montana Building
Industry Association (MBIA)

02:22:08 Alec Hansen, representing League of Cities and Towns

Opponents' Testimony:

02:23:22 Tom Bilodeau, MEA/MFT

02:29:02 Kevin Nelson, Billings

02:35:43 Ronda Wiggers, speaking for Harold Blattie, MACo

Informational Testimony:

02:36:34 Debbie Jurcich, Department of Revenue (DOR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:38:43 Sen. Brown

02:39:42 Alec Hansen

[EXHIBIT \(tas48a11\)](#)

02:42:51 Chairman Essmann

02:44:07 Alec Hansen

02:45:03 Sen. Gebhardt

02:46:10 Sen. Erickson

02:47:48 Sen. Jackson

02:50:03 Sen. Erickson

02:50:14 Sen. Tutvedt

02:51:08 Sen. Jackson

02:53:36 Sen. Tutvedt

02:54:47 Alec Hansen

02:56:08 Chairman Essmann

02:58:28 Dustin Stewart, MBIA

03:03:16 Sen. Gebhardt

03:05:29 Sen. Jackson

Closing by Sponsor:

03:05:54 Sen. Jackson

[EXHIBIT \(tas48a12\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:20 A.M.

Debra Polhemus, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT ([tas48aad.pdf](#))