

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 62nd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Harry Klock, on January 24, 2011 at 3:00 PM, in Room 172 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Harry Klock, Chair (R)
Rep. Keith Regier, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Carlie Boland (D)
Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Mary McNally (D)
Rep. Mike Menahan (D)
Rep. Jesse O'Hara (R)
Rep. Mike Phillips (D)
Rep. Derek Skees (R)
Rep. Sterling Small (R)

Members Excused: Rep. James Knox (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Rep. Ken Peterson (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Todd Everts, Legislative Branch
Cara Gold, 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: HB 244, 1/21/2011; HB 237, 1/21/2011
Executive Action: HJ 3; HB 169; HB 233

00:00:02 The Chair welcomed everyone and reviewed the rules of the committee.

HEARING ON HB 244

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:43 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 244, Repeal the MT renewable power production and rural economic development act.

[EXHIBIT\(feh18a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh18a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh18a03\)](#)

00:04:11 Rep. Stahl entered the hearing.

00:04:54 Rep. Peterson entered the hearing.

00:16:12 Rep. Peterson left the hearing.

00:17:29 Rep. Peterson returned to the hearing.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:19:52 Bill Gallagher, Self

00:23:31 Robyn Robert, Self and Western Tradition Partnership

00:27:18 Tim Ravndal, Lewis and Clark Conservative Tea Party (LCCTP)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:28:10 John Alke, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

00:35:12 Evan Barrett, Governor's Office of Economic Development

[EXHIBIT\(feh18a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh18a05\)](#)

00:38:07 Helen Waller, Self and Northern Plains Resource Council

00:39:46 John Fitzpatrick, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

00:42:52 Van Jamison, GAElectric, North America

00:47:16 Chantel McCormick, Grasslands Renewable Energy

00:47:29 Rep. Kary entered the hearing.

00:48:11 Michael Green, Crowley Fleck Attorneys, PLLP, for Montana Wind Group

00:49:36 Kyla Wiens, Montana Environmental Information Center

00:49:52 Sarah Cobler, Montana Conservation Voters

00:50:05 Ben Brouwer, Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)

00:50:26 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union

00:51:35 David Scrimm, Self

Informational Testimony:

00:52:33 Brad Molnar, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:59:16 Rep. Skees

HEARING ON HB 237

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:06:19 Rep. Mike Menahan (D), HD 82, opened the hearing on HB 237, Revise renewable resource standard laws to eliminate certain requirements.

01:07:45 Rep. Small and Rep. Phillips left the hearing.

01:07:55 Rep. Driscoll left the hearing.

01:08:23 Rep. Small returned to the hearing.

01:09:19 Rep. Driscoll returned to the hearing.

01:11:15 Rep. Phillips returned to the hearing.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:13:49 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
[EXHIBIT\(feh18a06\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:19:53 Ben Brouwer, AERO
[EXHIBIT\(feh18a07\)](#)

01:23:37 Chris Christiaens, Montana Farmers Union

01:26:21 Clayton Elliott, The Northern Plains Resource Council

01:26:49 Rep. Peterson left the hearing.

01:26:59 Rep. O'Hara left the hearing.

Informational Testimony:

01:29:40 John Alke, MDU

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

01:32:30 Rep. Menahan

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 169

01:35:26 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Regier moved that **HJ 169 DO PASS**. Motion carried 13-0 by voice vote. Rep. Peterson voted by proxy. Rep. Knox, Rep MacLaren and Rep. O'Hara did not vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 233

01:36:45 **Motion:** Rep. Regier moved that **HB 233 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

01:37:02 Rep. Skees

01:37:05 Rep. Klock

01:37:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 13-0 by voice vote. Rep. Peterson voted aye by proxy. Rep. Knox, Rep MacLaren and Rep. O'Hara did not vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 3

01:38:16 **Motion:** Rep. Regier moved that **HJ 3 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

01:38:28 Rep. Klock

01:39:25 Rep. Stahl

01:39:52 Todd Everts, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:40:32 Rep. Stahl

01:40:50 Todd Everts, LSD

01:41:11 Rep. Skees

01:42:04 Rep. Knudsen

01:42:57 Rep. Reiger

01:43:34 Rep. Kary

01:44:14 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-6 by roll call vote with Rep. Kary, Rep. Knudsen, Rep. Peterson, Rep. Regier, Rep. Skees and Rep. Stahl voting no. Rep. Peterson voted by proxy. Rep. Knox and Rep. MacLaren did not vote.

ADJOURNMENT

01:45:39 Adjournment

Cara Gold, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh18aad.pdf](#))