

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 63rd LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on March 13, 2013 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

- Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
- Sen. John Brenden, Vice Chair (R)
- Sen. Debby Barrett (R)
- Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)
- Sen. Christine Kaufmann (D)
- Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
- Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
- Sen. Rick Ripley (R)
- Sen. Matthew M. Rosendale Sr (R)
- Sen. Mitch Tropila (D)

Members Excused:

- Sen. Bradley Hamlett (D)
- Sen. Verdell Jackson (R)
- Sen. Jim Keane (D)
- Sen. Edward Walker (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Mary Kulawik, 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: HB 359, 2/27/2013; HB 291, 2/27/2013

00:41:35 Chairman Vincent turned over Chair responsibilities to Vice Chair Brenden and left the hearing.

HEARING ON HB 359

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:06 Rep. Steve Fitzpatrick (R), HD 20, opened the hearing on HB 359, Order admissible in civil action.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:44:40 Leo Berry, Attorney

[EXHIBIT\(nas54a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(nas54a02\)](#)

00:53:17 Tom Hopgood, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

00:53:52 David Galt, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

00:54:09 Mark Staples, Attorney, Atlantic Richfield (AR)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:57:03 Tom Lewis, Attorney, Lewis, Slovak, and Kovacich (LSK)

01:09:30 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:14:35 Sen. Ripley
01:15:00 Leo Berry, Attorney
01:16:50 Sen. Felder
01:18:56 Rep. Fitzpatrick
01:19:02 Leo Berry
01:21:00 Sen. Larsen
01:21:54 Tom Lewis, LSK
01:23:56 Sen. Ripley
01:24:24 Rep. Fitzpatrick
01:24:37 Leo Berry
01:25:18 Sen. Phillips
01:28:23 Tom Lewis
01:28:36 Sen. Barrett
01:29:12 Leo Berry
01:30:17 Sen. Tropila
01:30:40 Tom Lewis
01:32:06 Sen. Tropila
01:32:28 Leo Berry
01:33:29 Sen. Kaufmann
01:33:52 Leo Berry
01:34:17 Sen. Kaufmann

01:34:44 Tom Lewis
01:37:08 Sen. Barrett
01:37:19 Tom Lewis
01:38:20 Chairman Brenden
01:42:36 Tom Lewis

Closing by Sponsor:

01:44:27 Rep. Fitzpatrick

HEARING ON HB 291

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:46:54 Rep. Krayton Kerns (R), HD 58, opened the hearing on HB 291, Generally revise canal or ditch easement laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:48:25 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and Montana CattleWomen (MCW)
01:49:38 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)
01:50:15 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
01:50:55 Jean Riley, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:51:48 Sen. Fielder
01:52:09 Rep. Kerns
01:52:30 Sen. Larsen
01:53:10 Rep. Kerns
01:53:17 Sen. Tropila
01:53:35 Rep. Kerns
01:53:42 Sen. Kaufmann
01:53:59 Jay Bodner, MSGA and MCW

Closing by Sponsor:

01:54:25 Rep. Kerns

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:33 P.M.

Mary Kulawik, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas54aad.pdf](#))