

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang, on January 19, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Lang, Chair (R)
Rep. Tom Steenberg, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Tom Berry (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)
Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R)
Rep. Zac Perry (D)
Rep. Andrew Person (D)
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)
Rep. Tom Richmond (R)
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)
Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division, (LSD)

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 188, 1/16/2015; HB 192, 1/16/2015

00:01:28 Chairman Lang
00:02:24 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division, (LSD) `
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a01\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a02\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a03\)](#)
00:03:16 Rep. Knudsen entered the meeting
00:03:35 Recessed
00:07:12 Reconvened

HEARING ON HB 192

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:07:15 Rep. Art Wittich (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 192, Increase the cap on net metering.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:10:44 Ben Brouwer, Montana Renewable Energy Association, (MREA)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a04\)](#)
00:14:54 Brad Van Wert, Gallatin County Solar Contractor
00:17:59 Sara Ray, Independent Power Systems, (IPS)
00:19:42 Dan Brandborg, SBS Solar
00:22:03 Jacob Cowgill, Montana Farmers Union, (MFU)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a05\)](#)
00:24:06 John Palm, Bozeman Green Build
00:26:02 Connie Keogh, Northern Plains Reserve Council, (NPRC)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a06\)](#)
00:28:34 Brian Davis, Self
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a07\)](#)
00:30:28 Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a08\)](#)
00:34:41 Susan Bilo, Montana Renewable Energy Association, (MREA) and Self
00:36:52 Becky Weed, 13 Mile Farm
00:37:47 John MacDonald, City of Missoula
00:38:50 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition, (NWECC)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a09\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(feh11a10\)](#)
00:41:12 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest Project, (RNE)
00:43:10 Andy Onushco, Self
00:43:26 Kathi Montgomery, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)
00:43:41 Neil Ullman, Montana Conservation Voters, (MCV)
00:43:52 Andrew Chanania, Sleeping Giant Citizen Council
00:44:07 Diana Hammer, Self
00:44:23 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Alternative Energy Resource Organization, (AERO)
00:44:47 Shiloh Hernandez, Sleeping Giant Citizens Council,
00:45:10 Maureen Kiely, Self
00:45:44 Wade Sikorski, Self
00:46:03 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
00:46:20 Debra Hanneman, Self
00:46:40 Norm Mullen, Self

Opponents' Testimony:

00:47:13 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association, (MECA)

00:50:59 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a12\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a13\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a14\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a15\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a16\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a17\)](#)

01:04:30 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities, (MDU)

01:07:11 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, (IBEW)

01:08:52 Keith Allen, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, (IBEW)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:18 Rep. D. Moore
 01:11:48 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
 01:12:37 Rep. D. Moore
 01:13:42 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
 01:13:13 Rep. D. Moore
 01:13:29 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
 01:14:11 Rep. Richmond
 01:14:39 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:15:23 Rep. Richmond
 01:15:30 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:15:42 Rep. Pope
 01:16:16 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:16:56 Rep. Pope
 01:17:22 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:18:39 Rep. Pope
 01:18:46 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:19:00 Rep. Pope
 01:19:13 John Fitzpatrick, NWE
 01:19:35 Rep. Person
 01:20:10 Ben Brouwer, MREA
 01:20:50 Rep. Knudsen left the meeting
 01:23:17 Rep. Pope
 01:24:37 Wade Sikorski, Self
 01:26:20 Rep. Steenberg
 01:27:03 Ben Brouwer, MREA
 01:29:37 Rep. Custer
 01:30:05 Ben Brouwer, MREA
 01:31:11 Rep. Perry
 01:31:38 Ben Brouwer, MREA
 01:33:22 Rep. Steenberg
 01:34:04 Doug Hardy, MECA

Closing by Sponsor:

01:34:49 Rep. Wittich
01:39:05 Rep. Pinocci Enters the meeting
01:39:18 Brief Recess
01:49:10 Reconvened
01:49:23 Rep. Berry Excused

HEARING ON HB 188

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:49:43 Rep. Art Wittich (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 188, Revise net metering laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:51:04 Ben Brouwer, Montana Renewable Energy Association, (MREA)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a18\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a19\)](#)

01:54:00 Kathi Montgomery, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

01:55:22 John Palm, Bozeman Green Build

01:56:47 Susan Bilo, Self

01:57:42 Andrew Chanania, Sleeping Giant Citizens Council

02:00:02 Robert Filipovich, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a20\)](#)

02:02:21 Wade Sikorski, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a21\)](#)

02:03:49 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Alternative Energy Resource Organization, (AERO)

02:04:36 Neill Ullman, Montana Conservation Voters, (MCV)

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a22\)](#)

02:05:50 Norm Mullen, Self

02:07:20 Andy Onushco, Self

02:07:28 Rep. D. Moore left the meeting

02:08:48 Maureen Kiely, Self

02:10:13 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest Project

02:11:33 Diana Hammer, Self

[EXHIBIT\(feh11a23\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

02:12:42 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)

02:17:07 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities, (MDU)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

02:18:14 Rep. Wittich

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 02:19:30

Jessica Riffel, Secretary

jr

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh11aad.pdf](#))