

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang, on January 21, 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. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Rep. Zac Perry (D)  
Rep. Andrew Person (D)  
Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)  
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)  
Rep. Tom Richmond (R)  
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)  
Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Tom Berry (R)  
Rep. David (Doc) Moore (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 189, 1/13/2015

00:00:49 Chairman Lang

**HEARING ON HB 189**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:18 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 189, Eliminate certain automatic utility rate adjustments for outages.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:08:17 Bob Nelson, Montana Consumer Council, (MCC)

00:13:21 Travis Kavulla, Public Service Commission, (PSC)

**[EXHIBIT\(feh13a01\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:19:00 John Alke, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)

00:27:45 Mike Green, Montana-Dakota Utilities, (MDU)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:30:41 Rep. Pinocci  
00:31:03 Mike Green, MDU  
00:31:47 Rep. Pinocci  
00:31:56 Mike Green, MDU  
00:32:10 Rep. Steenberg  
00:32:43 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
00:34:40 Rep. Richmond  
00:35:14 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
00:37:31 Rep. Pinocci  
00:37:53 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
00:39:32 Rep. Pinocci  
00:39:42 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
00:40:31 Rep. Richmond  
00:40:53 John Alke, NWE  
00:43:41 Chairman Lang  
00:43:53 John Alke, NWE  
00:45:40 Chairman Lang  
00:46:08 John Alke, NWE  
00:48:22 Rep. Pope  
00:49:50 John Alke, NWE  
00:51:22 Rep. Pope  
00:51:53 John Alke, NWE  
00:52:59 Chairman Lang  
00:53:23 John Alke, NWE  
00:54:22 Rep. Person  
00:54:57 John Alke, NWE  
00:56:27 Rep. Knudsen left the meeting  
00:56:35 Rep. Person  
00:56:50 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
00:58:38 Rep. Custer

00:59:32 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:02:54 Chairman Lang  
 01:03:37 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:04:48 Chairman Lang  
 01:05:05 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:05:39 Rep. Steenberg  
 01:06:19 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:07:19 Rep. Pinocci  
 01:07:57 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)  
 01:09:55 Rep. Pinocci  
 01:10:02 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:10:24 Rep. Pinocci  
 01:10:39 Chairman Lang

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:11:10 Rep. Woods  
 01:14:10 Brief recess  
 01:17:55 Reconvened

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 42**

01:18:28 **Motion:** Rep. Lang moved that **HB 42 DO PASS.**  
**EXHIBIT**(feh13a02)  
 01:18:37 **Motion:** Rep. Welborn moved that **HB 42 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

01:20:02 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division, (LSD)  
 01:24:53 Travis Kavulla, Public Service Commission, (PSC)  
 01:25:05 Rep. Steenberg  
 01:25:27 Chairman Lang  
 01:26:31 Travis Kavulla, PSC  
 01:26:54 John Alke, Northwestern Energy, (NWE)  
 01:28:09 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-4 by roll call vote with Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Steenberg voting no. Rep. Berry, Rep. Knudsen and Rep. Moore voted by proxy.

01:29:47 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 42 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

01:29:53 Rep. Pope  
 01:31:26 Rep. Steenberg  
 01:31:57 Rep. Welborn  
 01:32:34 Rep. Richmond  
 01:33:54 **Vote:** Motion carried 8-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Lynch, Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Pope, Rep. Schreiner, Rep. Steenberg and Rep. Zolnikov voting no. Rep. Berry, Rep. Knudsen and Rep. Moore voted by proxy.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 01:35:08

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Jessica Riffel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([feh13aad.pdf](#))**