

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang, on February 2, 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. Andrew Person (D)
Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)
Rep. Christopher Pope (D)
Rep. Tom Richmond (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
Rep. Zac Perry (D)
Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)
Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (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: SB 10, 2/26/2015; HB 253, 2/26/2015

Executive Action: HB 188, HB 192, SB 10

00:00:05 Chairman Lang

HEARING ON SB 10

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:03:03 Sen. Jim Keane (D), SD 38, opened the hearing on SB 10, Revise universal system benefits laws to exempt small natural gas utilities.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:19 Travis Kavulla, Public Service Commission (PSC)

00:06:25 Ron Devlin, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:07:09 Steve Erb, Legislative Audit Division (LAD)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:07:32 Sen. Keane

HEARING ON HB 253

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:08:05 Rep. Virginia Court (D), HD 50, opened the hearing on HB 253, Revise laws related to oil and gas development.

[EXHIBIT\(feh23a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh23a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh23a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh23a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:17:27 Bonnie Martinell, Self

00:18:13 Rep. Knudsen entered

00:19:57 Cindy Webber, Northern Plains Research Council (NPRC)

00:21:39 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Research Council (NPRC)

00:22:14 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

00:22:48 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(feh23a05\)](#)

00:27:20 Shelby Dantic, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)

00:27:37 Jake Brown, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MTPIRG)

Opponents' Testimony:

00:28:23 Gary McDermott, Self and Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association (NMOGA)

00:30:43 John Finstad, Keesan Corporation

00:33:26 Roy Brown, FX Drilling Company

00:34:51 Garth Owens, Gasco Drilling

00:35:50 Jessica Sena, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

00:38:04 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana-Dakota Utility Resources (MDU)

Informational Testimony:

00:39:07 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:39:32 Rep. Pinocci
00:39:52 Roy Brown, FX Drilling Company
00:42:18 Rep. Moore
00:42:55 Gary McDermott, NMOGA
00:43:59 Rep. Berry
00:44:50 Roy Brown, FX Drilling Company
00:45:44 Rep. Knudsen
00:46:03 Rep. Perry entered
00:46:10 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:46:36 Rep. Knudsen
00:46:50 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:47:32 Rep. Steenberg
00:48:10 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:48:55 Rep. Richmond
00:49:40 Rep. Court
00:49:49 Rep. Richmond
00:50:22 Rep. Court
00:50:57 Adam Haight, NPRC
00:51:14 Rep. Richmond
00:51:32 Adam Haight, NPRC
00:51:51 Rep. Richmond
00:51:57 Adam Haight, NPRC
00:52:15 Rep. Richmond
00:52:17 Adam Haight, NPRC
00:52:43 Rep. Richmond
00:52:48 Adam Haight, NPRC
00:53:04 Rep. Person
00:53:35 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:53:57 Rep. Person
00:54:04 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:54:28 Rep. Person
00:54:39 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:54:57 Rep. Person
00:55:51 Chairman Lang
00:56:01 Rep. Person
00:56:05 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:56:25 Chairman Lang
00:56:34 Rep. Pope
00:58:04 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
00:59:23 Rep. Pope
00:59:53 Jim Halvorson, Board of Oil and Gas
01:00:17 Chairman Lang
01:00:35 Jake Brown, MTPIRG

Closing by Sponsor:

01:00:58 Rep. Court

01:03:18 Chairman Lang

01:04:08 Recess

01:23:45 Reconvened

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 10

01:24:04 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:24:21 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 10 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn voted by proxy. Rep. Lang will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 188

01:25:08 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:25:28 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 188 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

01:25:34 Rep. Pinocci

01:26:03 Rep. Steenberg

01:26:27 **Vote:** Motion failed 7-8 by roll call vote with Rep. Lynch, Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Pinocci, Rep. Pope, Rep. Steenberg and Rep. Zolnikov voting aye. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn voted by proxy.

01:27:22 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 188 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED**. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn were excused.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 192

01:27:53 Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

01:28:01 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 192 DO PASS**.

01:28:12 **Motion:** Rep. Steenberg moved that **HB 192 BE AMENDED**.
[EXHIBIT\(feh23a06\)](#)

Discussion:

01:28:29 Rep. Steenberg

01:29:58 Rep. Moore

01:30:07 Rep. Pinocci

01:30:57 Rep. Pope

01:34:01 **Vote:** Motion carried 13-2 by roll call vote with Rep. Lang and Rep. Moore voting no. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn voted by proxy.

01:35:11 **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 192 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

01:35:31 Rep. Person

01:37:38 Rep. Pope

01:42:39 Rep. Berry

01:43:19 Rep. Pinocci

01:43:34 Rep. Custer

01:44:44 Rep. Moore

01:45:21 Rep. Steenberg

01:47:06 Rep. Custer

01:47:19 Chairman Lang

01:48:11 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-10 by roll call vote with Rep. Perry, Rep. Person, Rep. Pinocci, Rep. Pope and Rep. Steenberg voting aye. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn voted by proxy.

01:49:04 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 192 BE TABLED AND THE VOTE REVERSED.** Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Schreiner and Rep. Welborn were excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 01:49:29

Jessica Riffel, Secretary

jr

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh23aad.pdf](#))