

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Roger Webb, on January 20, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Roger Webb, Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Sen. Llew Jones (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Jim Keane (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R) (arrived after roll call)
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch
Barbara Pietuch, 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: SB 134, 1/16/2015; SB 150, 1/16/2015

00:00:01 Chairman Webb

HEARING ON SB 150

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:52 Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D), SD 16, opened the hearing on SB 150, Revise USB laws.

[EXHIBIT](#)(ens12a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:43 Jim Nolan, Human Resources Development Council (HRDC)

00:07:36 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

00:09:33 Charles Walking Child, representing himself and low income Montanans

Opponents' Testimony:

00:11:48 Diego Rivas, Montana policy associate, NW Energy Coalition (NWECC)

[EXHIBIT](#)(ens12a02)

00:16:44 Kyla Maki, Montana Environment Information Center (MEIC)

[EXHIBIT](#)(ens12a03)

00:19:54 Sen. Tutvedt entered the hearing.

Informational Testimony:

00:23:28 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

00:23:47 Kane Quenemoen, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:24:15 Sen. Discroll

00:24:36 Mr. Quenemoen, DPHHS

00:24:52 Sen. McNally

00:25:13 Ms. Maki, MEIC

00:26:20 Sen. McNally

00:26:34 Ms. Maki

00:27:22 Sen. Ankney

00:27:49 Sen. Windy Boy

00:28:04 Sen. Keane

00:28:32 Mr. Quenemoen

00:28:52 Sen. Keane

00:29:21 Mr. Fitzpatrick, NWE

00:30:11 Sen. Keane

00:30:19 Mr. Fitzpatrick

Closing by Sponsor:

00:30:37 Sen. Windy Boy
00:31:24 Chairman Webb

HEARING ON SB 134

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:31:51 Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R), SD 7, opened the hearing on SB 134, Allow for aggregate net metering.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:36:28 Ben Brouwer, policy director, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a04\)](#)

00:39:20 Sen. Keenan entered the hearing.

00:41:28 Wayne Baker, owner, Baker Light Industries
00:42:27 David Ryan, mechanical engineer, energy consultant
00:44:09 Henry Dykema, owner, Sundance Solar Systems
00:49:20 Ben Reed, owner, WinPower West
00:53:42 Jack Isbell, owner, Solar Montana
00:55:48 John Palm, owner, Bozeman Green Build
00:57:20 Jacob Cowgill, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a05\)](#)

00:58:40 Lloyd Sikorski, wheat farmer
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a06\)](#)

01:01:24 Jennifer Hill-Hart, executive director, Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO)
01:03:03 Neal Ullman, program director, Montana Conservation Voters (MVC)
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a07\)](#)

01:04:31 Art Hayes Jr., owner, Brown Cattle Company
01:06:09 Jeff Fox, Montana policy manager, Renewable Northwest (RNP)
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a08\)](#)

01:11:50 Diego Rivas, Montana policy associate, NW Energy Coalition (NVEC)
[EXHIBIT\(ens12a09\)](#)

01:15:40 Jake Brown, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
01:17:14 Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
01:19:02 Tom Javins, mechanical engineer, associate director of utilities and engineering (retired), University of Montana
01:22:27 Kathi Montgomery, program manager, Alternative Energy Loan Program, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:27:07 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(ens12a10\)](#)

01:46:42 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

01:49:21 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:52:45 Sen. Connell
 01:53:36 Mr. Fox, RNP
 01:54:03 Sen. Connell
 01:54:25 Mr. Fox
 01:55:58 Sen. Connell
 01:56:56 Mr. Fox
 01:57:50 Sen. Keane
 01:58:23 Sen. Fielder
 01:58:39 Mr. Fox
 02:00:03 Sen. Keane
 02:00:23 Mr. Fox
 02:01:00 Mr. Brouwer, MREA
 02:01:28 Sen. Keane
 02:02:45 Mr. Brouwer
 02:05:03 Sen. Keane
 02:05:37 Mr. Brouwer
 02:06:59 Sen. Keane
 02:07:19 Mr. Fitzpatrick, NWE
 02:11:47 Sen. Keane
 02:12:05 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:12:50 Sen. McNally
 02:13:12 Mr. Brouwer
 02:14:20 Sen. McNally
 02:14:28 Mr. Brouwer
 02:17:39 Sen. McNally
 02:18:07 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:18:41 Sen. McNally
 02:18:57 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:19:58 Sen. McNally
 02:20:31 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:21:40 Sen. McNally
 02:22:24 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:23:38 Sen. McNally
 02:24:06 Chairman Webb
 02:24:14 Sen. Driscoll
 02:24:37 Mr. Fitzpatrick
 02:24:44 Sen. Driscoll

02:24:49 Mr. Fitzpatrick
02:25:12 Sen. Driscoll
02:25:25 Mr. Fitzpatrick
02:25:56 Sen. Keane
02:26:19 Sen. Fielder

Closing by Sponsor:

02:26:31 Sen. Fielder

Committee Business

02:28:19 Chairman Webb
02:28:36 Sen. Tutvedt
02:28:52 Sen. McNally
02:29:05 Chairman Webb

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:30 PM

Barbara Pietuch, Secretary

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Additional Document

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens12aad.pdf](#))