

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Roger Webb, on January 27, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Roger Webb, 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)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Duane Ankney, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R)

**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 182, 1/21/2015

00:00:01 Chairman Webb

**HEARING ON SB 182**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:02:15 Sen. Mike Phillips (D), SD 31, opened the hearing on SB 182, Provide for neighborhood net metering.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:12:12 Ben Brouwer, policy director, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

00:17:14 Ben Reed, owner, WinPower West (WPW)

**EXHIBIT(ens18a01)**

00:28:19 Rhyno Stinchfield, president, Green World Partners

00:31:49 John Palm, owner, Bozeman Green Build

00:33:20 Marshall Swearingen, Bozeman Community Solar

**EXHIBIT(ens18a02)**

00:36:11 Natalie Meyer, sustainability program manager, City of Bozeman

**EXHIBIT(ens18a03)**

00:38:46 Conor Darby, president, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

00:42:57 Kyla Maki, Montana Environment Information Center (MEIC)

00:46:36 Dona Aitken, representing herself

00:48:02 John Dinneny, owner, Right On John Innovations

00:51:47 Mary Fitzpatrick, member, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

**EXHIBIT(ens18a04)**

00:52:56 Jay Mennenga, representing himself

00:54:50 Nevada Thompson, massage therapist, representing herself

00:56:32 Susan Bilo, member, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

00:58:51 Mike Lee, Sleeping Giant Citizens Council

01:00:14 Sen. Tutvedt entered the hearing.

01:00:55 Kathi Montgomery, program manager, Alternative Energy Loan Program, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

01:02:13 Bert Lindler, representing himself

01:03:07 Christopher J. Thompson, representing himself

01:04:17 Jeff Fox, Montana policy manager, Renewable Northwest

01:05:24 Jill Van Alstyne, teacher, representing herself

01:07:11 Jake Brown, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

01:07:46 Diego Rivas, Montana policy associate, NW Energy Coalition

01:10:10 Duane Catlett, representing himself

**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:12:12 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

01:15:40 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

01:15:45 Sen. Ankney entered the hearing.

01:16:26 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(ens18a05\)](#)

01:39:30 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

**Informational Testimony:**

01:44:01 Travis Kavulla, commissioner, Public Service Commission (PSC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:45:23 Sen. Keane  
01:45:56 Mr. Kavulla, PSC  
01:48:21 Sen. Keane  
01:49:17 Mr. Kavulla  
01:52:05 Sen. Connell  
01:53:04 Mr. Kavulla  
01:54:29 Sen. Connell  
01:56:39 Mr. Kavulla  
01:58:09 Sen. McNally  
01:58:52 Ms. Aitken, representing herself  
01:59:21 Sen. McNally  
01:59:37 Ms. Aitken  
02:00:46 Sen. McNally  
02:01:05 Ms. Maki, MEIC  
02:01:33 Sen. McNally  
02:02:01 Mr. Reed, WPW  
02:02:36 Sen. McNally  
02:03:23 Chairman Webb  
02:03:44 Sen. Phillips  
02:04:04 Chairman Webb  
02:04:18 Sen. Phillips  
02:04:46 Chairman Webb  
02:04:54 Sen. Phillips  
02:05:27 Chairman Webb

**Closing by Sponsor:**

02:05:36 Sen. Phillips

**Committee Business:**

02:10:30 Chairman Webb

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:12 PM

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Barbara Pietuch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([ens18aad.pdf](#))**