

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Roger Webb, on February 5, 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) (arrived after roll call)  
Sen. Llew Jones (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Jim Keane (D)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Cliff Larsen (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Bruce Tutvedt (R) (arrived after roll call)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)

**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 249, 2/2/2015; HB 16, 2/2/2015; HB 112, 2/2/2015

Executive Action: SB 229 - DO PASS AS AMENDED; HB 16 - BE CONCURRED IN;  
HB 112 - BE CONCURRED IN

00:00:25 Chairman Webb

**Presentation by Pacific NorthWest Economic Region and Partners**

00:01:36 Matt Morrison, executive director, Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)  
**EXHIBIT(ens26a01)**

**Discussion:**

00:04:32 Sen. Larson  
00:05:14 Sen. Ankney  
00:06:08 Sen. Driscoll  
00:06:52 Sen. McNally  
00:07:57 Mr. Morrison, PNWER  
00:10:03 David Kettles, director U.S. relations, Government of Alberta (GoA)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:13:28 Sen. Keane  
00:13:47 Mr. Kettles, GoA  
00:14:22 Sen. Ankney  
00:14:33 Mr. Kettles  
00:15:04 Colin Smith, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, British Columbia (APEGBC)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:20:22 Sen. Connell  
00:22:10 Sen. Ankney  
00:22:22 Mr. Smith, APEGBC  
00:23:47 Shawna Argue, Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, Saskatchewan  
00:26:21 Sen. Ankney

**HEARING ON HB 16**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:27:25 Rep. Keith Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 16, Repeal the Montana low-income telephone assistance program.

00:28:00 Chairman Webb left the hearing. Sen. Ankney assumed the role as chair.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:29:58 Kirk Bushman, commissioner, Public Service Commission  
00:35:21 Tom Ebzery, attorney, Century Link  
**EXHIBIT(ens26a02)**

00:38:10 Sen. Jones left the hearing.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:40:08 Sen. Regier

00:40:51 Chairman Ankney

00:40:58 Sen. Webb entered the hearing.

### **HEARING ON HB 112**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:41:23 Rep. Keith Regier (R), HD 4, opened the hearing on HB 112, Extend sunset on enhanced 9-1-1 fund distribution.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:43:46 Shantil Siaperas, legislative analyst and communications specialist, Montana Association of Counties

**EXHIBIT(ens26a03)**

00:45:29 David Nielsen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

00:45:50 Margaret Morgan, Montana Independent Telecommunications Systems

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:47:33 Sen. Regier

### **HEARING ON SB 249**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:48:03 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 249, Generally revise energy performance contracting laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:50:50 Chris Batson, mechanical engineer, Planning, Prevention and Assistance  
Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**[EXHIBIT\(ens26a04\)](#)**

00:56:45 Brian Solan, Montana operations manager, Ameresco

**[EXHIBIT\(ens26a05\)](#)**

00:58:51 Tim Tolman, McKinstry Montana

**[EXHIBIT\(ens26a06\)](#)**

01:04:35 Kyla Maki, Montana Environmental Information Center

01:05:26 Shantil Siaperas, legislative analyst and communications specialist, Montana  
Association of Counties

01:05:49 David Nielsen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:06:38 Sen. Cohenour

01:07:10 Sen. Driscoll left the hearing.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 16**

01:10:12 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Keenan moved that **HB 16 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion  
carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Driscoll, Sen. Jones and Sen. Windy Boy were  
excused. Sen. Keenan will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 112**

01:11:36 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Keenan moved that **HB 112 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion  
carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Driscoll, Sen. Jones and Sen. Windy Boy were  
excused. Sen. Keenan will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 229**

01:12:02 **Motion:** Sen. Tutvedt moved that **SB 229 DO PASS**.

01:13:04 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Tutvedt moved that **SB 229 BE AMENDED**. Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Driscoll, Sen. Jones and Sen. Windy Boy were excused.

**EXHIBIT(ens26a07)**

**Motion:** Sen. Tutvedt moved that **SB 229 DO PASS AS AMENDED**.

**Discussion:**

01:13:26 Sen. Webb

01:13:31 Sen. Tutvedt

01:13:47 Sen. Driscoll entered the hearing.

01:14:47 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-0 by voice vote. Sen. Jones and Sen. Windy Boy were excused.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:18 PM

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Barbara Pietuch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([ens26aad.pdf](#))**