

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

Call to Order: Chair Brian Hoven, on February 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Brian Hoven, Chair (R)
Sen. Nels Swandal, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mary Caferro (D)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Margaret (Margie) MacDonald (D)
Sen. Frederick (Eric) Moore (R)
Sen. Albert Olszewski (R)
Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)
Sen. Frank Smith (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Diane Sands (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sue O'Connell, 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 247, 2/15/2017; HB 256, 2/15/2017; HB 286, 2/15/2017; SB 285, 2/16/2017

00:00:03 Chairman Hoven

00:01:00 Sen. MacDonald entered the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 285

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:49 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 285, Establish the Montana Pulse Crop Committee.

00:03:36 Sen. Olszewski entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:17 Jerry Schillinger, president, Northern Pulse Growers Association (NPGA)

00:12:54 Charlie Cahill, pulse producer, Scoby

00:16:57 Cort Jensen, attorney, Montana Department of Agriculture

00:19:51 Ryan Bogar, vice chairman, Montana Pulse Advisory Committee

00:20:14 Krista Lee Evans, lobbyist, Montana Agricultural Business Association

00:21:06 Levi Ostberg, lobbyist, Montana Farmers Union

00:21:54 Dave Galt, lobbyist, Columbia Grain International

00:22:13 Chris Westergard, vice president, Northern Pulse Growers Association

00:22:33 Sen. Moore entered the meeting.

00:23:09 John Brendan, self

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:26:35 Tracy Ellig, communications director, Montana State University - Montana Agricultural Experiment Station

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:27:27 Sen. Swandal

00:27:47 Mr. Schillinger, NPGA

00:28:10 Sen. Salomon

00:28:24 Mr. Schillinger

00:29:32 Chairman Hoven

Closing by Sponsor:

00:29:40 Sen. Lang

00:30:35 Chairman Hoven

HEARING ON HB 286

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:32:07 Rep. Ray Shaw (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 286, Allow livestock loss reimbursement for mountain lion predation.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:33:59 Shantil Siaperas, legislative analyst and communications specialist, Montana Association of Counties

00:34:29 Chelcie Cargill, lobbyist, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

00:36:36 Levi Ostberg, lobbyist, Montana Farmers Union

00:37:29 Wilson Ilgenfritz, lobbyist, Montana Wool Growers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

00:38:10 Quentin Kujala, section chief, Wildlife Management Division, Department of Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

00:38:33 George Edwards, executive director, Livestock Loss Board

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:38:55 Sen. Moore

00:39:21 Ms. Cargill, MFBF

00:40:07 Sen. Moore

00:40:16 Sen. Osmundson

00:40:25 Chairman Hoven

00:40:59 Mr. Kujala, FWP

Closing by Sponsor:

00:41:29 Rep. Shaw

HEARING ON HB 256

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:42:49 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 256, Revise legal fence laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:43:34 Chelcie Cargill, lobbyist, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

00:45:42 Levi Ostberg, lobbyist, Montana Farmers Union

00:46:32 Wilson Ilgenfritz, lobbyist, Montana Wool Growers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:47:07 Sen. Moore
 00:47:23 Rep. Knudsen
 00:47:53 Sen. Moore
 00:48:06 Rep. Knudsen
 00:48:55 Sen. MacDonald
 00:49:28 Ms. Cargill, MFBF
 00:51:14 Sen. Lang
 00:51:40 Rep. Knudsen
 00:51:52 Chairman Hoven
 00:52:02 Rep. Knudsen
 00:53:07 Chairman Hoven

Closing by Sponsor:

00:53:13 Rep. Knudsen
 00:53:41 Chairman Hoven
 00:55:37 Brief Recess
 01:01:35 Reconvene

HEARING ON SB 247

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:01:42 Sen. Mike Phillips (D), SD 31, opened the hearing on SB 247, Prohibit neonicotinoid insecticides.

[EXHIBIT\(ags38a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:08:59 Nadine Nadow, legislative assistant, Montana Environmental Information Center
 01:12:44 Ben Williamson, Natural Resources Defense Council
 01:14:39 Tom France, senior director, Western Wildlife Conservation - Northern Rockies Regional Center, National Wildlife Federation
 01:18:02 Adam Haight, political organizer, Northern Plains Resource Council
 01:19:32 Dan Roper, legislative assistant, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(ags38a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:20:29 Levi Ostberg, self
 01:27:30 Lyle Benjamin, farmer representative, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
 01:33:10 Chelcie Cargill, lobbyist, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

01:36:42 Krista Lee Evans, lobbyist, Montana Agricultural Business Association

EXHIBIT(ags38a03)

01:37:51 Peter Grass, golf course superintendent, Hilands Country Club

01:40:32 Shane Clouse, Montana Nursery & Landscape Association

01:41:45 Rick Hathaway, golf course superintendent, Rock Creek Cattle Company

01:43:16 Robert Dillon, vice president, Association of Montana Turf, Ornamentals and Pest Professionals

01:44:50 Jerry Cashman, owner, Cashman Nursery

01:46:45 Dane Gamble, golf course owner, Bridger Creek Golf Course

01:49:23 Jason Stringer, secretary/treasurer, Association of Montana Turf, Ornamentals and Pest Professionals

01:55:20 Chairman Hoven

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:56:08 Sen. Olszewski

01:56:30 Sen. Phillips

01:56:55 Sen. Olszewski

01:57:16 Sen. Phillips

01:57:42 Sen. Swandal

01:57:55 Sen. Phillips

01:58:16 Chairman Hoven

01:58:57 Sen. Phillips

01:59:17 Chairman Hoven

01:59:25 Sen. Lang

01:59:38 Sen. Phillips

02:00:02 Sen. Lang

02:00:21 Mr. Benjamin, MGGA

02:01:06 Chairman Hoven

Closing by Sponsor:

02:01:15 Sen. Phillips

02:05:24 Chairman Hoven

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:09 PM

Barbara Pietuch, Secretary

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Additional Documents

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ags38aad.pdf](#))