

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on February 18, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472  
Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)  
Rep. Christopher Pope, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Derek Skees, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)  
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)  
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Alan Doane (R)  
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Robyn Brown, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**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: HB 437, 2/12/2019; HB 467, 2/12/2019; HB 479, 2/15/2019; HB 487, 2/15/2019

**Committee Business:**

14:58:15 Chairman Zolnikov

**HEARING ON HB 437**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:59:00 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 437, Require utilities to bear the burden of proof in rate cases.

15:02:10 Rep. Custer left the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:03:16 Mike Batista, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Montana

15:04:44 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:05:48 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Council (MEIC)

15:06:59 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:07:31 John Alke, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

15:12:50 Mike Green, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

**Informational Testimony:**

None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:17:53 Vice Chair Pope

15:19:00 Robin Arnold, PSC

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:20:22 Rep. Woods

**HEARING ON HB 479**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:23:07 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 479, Eliminate certain automatic utility rate adjustments for taxes.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

None.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:27:48 John Alke, NWE

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a01\)](#)

15:36:46 Mike Green, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a02\)](#)

15:44:12 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:45:18 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MTA)

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a03\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

15:51:00 Robin Arnold, PSC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:51:35 Rep. Redfield

15:51:40 Bob Story, MTA

15:52:20 Chair Zolnikov

15:52:40 John Alke, NWE

15:53:30 Chair Zolnikov

15:53:40 John Alke, NWE

15:54:41 Chair Zolnikov

15:55:00 John Alke, NWE

15:59:00 Chair Zolnikov

15:59:07 John Alke, NWE

16:00:09 Chair Zolnikov

16:01:09 Mike Green, MDU

16:02:38 Vice Chair Pope

16:04:07 Rep. Woods

16:06:33 Vice Chair Pope

16:07:18 John Alke, NWE

16:08:15 Vice Chair Pope

16:08:34 John Alke, NWE

16:09:33 Vice Chair Pope

16:09:41 John Alke, NWE

16:10:24 Vice Chair Pope

16:13:02 Rep. Duram

16:13:11 John Alke, NWE

16:14:28 Chair Zolnikov

16:14:42 Rep. Woods

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:15:06 Rep. Woods

**HEARING ON HB 467**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:19:08 Rep. Denise Hayman (D), HD 66, opened the hearing on HB 467, Authorize securitization for energy infrastructure.

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh34a06\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:32:53 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:42:49 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest (RNW)

16:44:27 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council  
16:45:47 Julian Adler, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

16:48:31 John Alke, NWE  
16:55:07 Bill Roberts, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

**Informational Testimony:**

16:57:02 Robin Arnold, PSC  
16:57:10 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:57:49 Rep. Duram  
16:58:07 Anne Hedges, MEIC  
17:01:47 John Alke, NWE  
17:09:15 Vice Chair Skees  
17:09:39 Anne Hedges, MEIC  
17:11:32 Vice Chair Skees  
17:12:00 Anne Hedges, MEIC  
17:13:05 Vice Chair Pope  
17:13:59 John Alke, NWE  
17:16:25 Vice Chair Pope  
17:17:14 John Alke, NWE  
17:19:02 Rep. Olsen  
17:19:12 John Alke, NWE  
17:21:23 Rep. Olsen  
17:21:26 Robin Arnold, PSC  
17:24:17 Vice Chair Pope  
17:25:04 Robin Arnold, PSC  
17:26:24 Rep. Custer  
17:26:28 Robin Arnold, PSC  
17:27:32 Chair Zolnikov  
17:27:48 John Alke, NWE  
17:28:39 Chair Zolnikov  
17:29:06 John Alke, NWE  
17:30:50 Chair Zolnikov  
17:30:57 John Alke, NWE

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:31:08 Rep. Hayman

**HEARING ON HB 487**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:36:21 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB 487, Revise RPS to include hydropower.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:37:48 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

17:38:22 Jeff Fox, RNW  
17:42:47 Cyndi Palmer, Montana Farmers Union  
17:44:18 Brian Fadie, MEIC  
17:45:15 John Alke, NWE  
17:48:15 Julian Adler, MontPIRG  
17:48:42 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

**Informational Testimony:**

None.

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

17:49:38 Chair Zolnikov  
17:50:35 Jeff Fox, RNW

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:51:51 Rep. Skees  
  
17:54:39 Chair Zolnikov  
17:55:20 Rep. Olsen  
17:55:44 Vice Chair Skees

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:56:00

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Robyn Brown, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([feh34aad.pdf](#))