

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on March 15, 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. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Alan Doane (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Alan Redfield (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: SB 199, 2/27/2019

Executive Action: HB 597

15:12:00 Chair Zolnikov

HEARING ON SB 199

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:13:29 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 199, Prohibit PSC from altering certain contract lengths.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:15:44 David Hoffman, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(feh53a01\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:23:22 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:26:09 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:32:58 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition

15:36:38 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest (RNW)

15:41:45 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

15:42:43 Adrienne Cotton, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)

15:43:12 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters

Informational Testimony:

None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:43:47 Vice Chair Pope

15:44:36 Sen. Richmond

15:47:02 Vice Chair Pope

15:47:12 Sen. Richmond

15:47:36 Vice Chair Pope

15:50:19 Sen. Richmond

15:52:55 Rep. Olsen

15:53:50 Robin Arnold, PSC

15:54:26 Rep. Olsen

15:54:50 Robin Arnold, PSC

15:56:13 Rep. Olsen

15:56:24 Robin Arnold, PSC

15:57:08 Rep. Olsen

15:57:37 Robin Arnold, PSC

15:58:13 Rep. Olsen

15:58:43 Robin Arnold, PSC

15:59:08 Rep. Olsen

16:00:21 David Hoffman, NWE

16:02:13 Rep. Sullivan

16:02:36 Sen. Richmond

16:03:43 David Hoffman, NWE

16:04:41 Rep. Custer

16:04:47 David Hoffman, NWE

16:06:58 Chair Zolnikov

16:07:02 David Hoffman, NWE

16:08:00 Chair Zolnikov
 16:08:12 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:08:27 Chair Zolnikov
 16:08:40 Brian Fadie, MEIC
 16:08:59 Vice Chair Pope
 16:09:14 Robin Arnold, PSC
 16:10:27 Vice Chair Pope
 16:10:31 Robin Arnold, PSC
 16:12:09 Chair Zolnikov
 16:12:16 Robin Arnold, PSC
 16:12:37 Chair Zolnikov
 16:12:41 Robin Arnold, PSC
 16:13:49 Vice Chair Skees
 16:14:42 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:15:59 Vice Chair Skees
 16:16:03 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:17:11 Vice Chair Skees
 16:17:16 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:17:40 Vice Chair Skees
 16:18:05 Diego Rivas, Northwest Energy Coalition
 16:20:41 Rep. Duram
 16:21:43 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:23:33 Rep. Duram
 16:23:41 David Hoffman, NWE

Closing by Sponsor:

16:24:56 Sen. Richmond

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 597

16:30:40 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved to **RECONSIDER THE VOTE FROM FEBRUARY 27, 2019 ON AMENDMENT HB059703.ASN to HB 597.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane, Rep. Galt, Rep. Hayman and Rep. Redfield voted by proxy.

16:31:33 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 597 DO PASS.**

16:31:45 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 597 BE AMENDED.**
[EXHIBIT\(feh53a02\)](#)

Discussion:

16:33:16 Chair Zolnikov

16:36:41 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane, Rep. Galt, Rep. Hayman and Rep. Redfield voted by proxy.

16:37:31 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 597 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

16:38:15 Without objection, Rep. Skees withdrew the DO PASS AS AMENDED motion.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:38:10

Robyn Brown, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh53aad.pdf](#))