

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Daniel Zolnikov, on March 27, 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. Neil Duram (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman (D)
Rep. Alan Redfield (R)
Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Alan Doane (R)
Rep. Wylie Galt (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jacie Vonada, 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 704, 3/20/2019; HB 743, 3/23/2019; HB 758, 3/23/2019

Executive Action: HJ 16; HJ 38; SB 191; HB 704; HB 743; HB 758

15:15:24 Chair Zolnikov ceded the gavel to Vice Chair Skees.
15:16:00 Rep. Custer joined the meeting.

HEARING ON HB 704

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:16:12 Rep. Bruce Grubbs (R), HD 68, opened the hearing on HB 704, Establish a Montana solar schools grant program.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:19:51 Owen Mitchell, self
15:24:00 Jackie Olexa, self
15:27:05 Claire Valases, self
15:29:53 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a02\)](#)

15:34:07 Julian Adler, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
15:37:26 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest
15:38:13 Malcolm Gilbert, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:39:02 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association (MLHA)

Informational Testimony:

15:42:27 Ken Bailey, Office of Public Instruction (OPI)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:43:15 Rep. Redfield
15:44:28 Owen Mitchell, self
15:45:40 Rep. Redfield
15:46:45 Owen Mitchell, self
15:47:19 Vice Chair Pope
15:47:38 Jackie Olexa, self
15:49:34 Rep. Hayman
15:49:47 Andrew Valainis, MREA
15:51:57 Rep. Duram
15:52:07 Claire Valases, self
15:54:12 Rep. Sullivan
15:54:45 Stuart Doggett, MLHA
15:55:03 Rep. Hayman
15:55:38 Stuart Doggett, MLHA
15:58:31 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
15:59:36 Owen Mitchell, self
16:01:59 Rep. Stewart Peregoy
16:03:38 Chair Skees
16:04:47 Rep. Grubbs
16:05:27 Chair Skees
16:05:57 Owen Mitchell, self

Closing by Sponsor:

16:09:30 Rep. Grubbs

16:16:59 Chair Zolnikov resumed the gavel.

HEARING ON HB 743

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:17:00 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 743, Revise laws related to utility carbon costs.

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

16:21:15 John Alke, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

16:26:42 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resources

16:28:50 Jeff Fox, RNW

Informational Testimony:

16:31:33 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:32:17 Chair Zolnikov

16:33:25 John Alke, NWE

16:35:27 Chair Zolnikov

16:35:54 John Alke, NWE

16:36:19 Chair Zolnikov

16:36:34 Rep. Custer

16:37:01 John Alke, NWE

16:38:47 Rep. Hayman

16:40:07 John Alke, NWE

16:44:32 Rep. Hayman

16:45:21 John Alke, NWE

16:46:10 Vice Chair Skees

16:47:00 Robin Arnold, PSC

16:47:18 John Alke, NWE

16:47:45 Vice Chair Skees

16:48:11 Rep. Woods

16:49:04 Vice Chair Skees

16:49:20 Rep. Woods

Closing by Sponsor:

16:50:22 Rep. Woods

HEARING ON HB 758

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:53:31 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 758, Generally revise energy laws.

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh63a06\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

None.

Opponents' Testimony:

16:54:52 John Alke, NWE

17:02:10 Aimee Grmoljez, MDU Resources

17:02:20 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

Informational Testimony:

17:02:50 Robin Arnold, PSC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

None.

Closing by Sponsor:

17:05:51 Rep. Woods

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 16

17:09:06 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HJ 16 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:09:13 Vice Chair Pope

17:10:52 Rep. Redfield

17:12:26 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane, Rep. Galt and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 38

17:13:29 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HJ 38 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

17:13:42 Rep. Hayman

17:13:46 Chair Zolnikov

17:13:49 **Vote:** Motion carried 9-3 by voice vote with Rep. Doane, Rep. Galt and Rep. Redfield voting no. Rep. Doane, Rep. Galt and Rep. Olsen voted by proxy.

17:15:54 The Committee recessed.
17:29:51 The Committee reconvened with Rep. Olsen in attendance.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 191

17:30:04 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved that **SB 191 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane and Rep. Galt voted by proxy. Rep. Zolnikov will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 704

17:31:07 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 704 DO PASS**.

Discussion:

17:31:45 Rep. Hayman
17:32:59 Rep. Olsen
17:33:42 Rep. Skees
17:37:04 Rep. Redfield
17:38:05 Vice Chair Pope
17:38:12 Sonja Nowakowski, LSD
17:38:33 Vice Chair Pope
17:39:37 Rep. Duram
17:40:53 Rep. Custer
17:41:29 Vice Chair Pope
17:42:03 Vice Chair Skees

17:41:20 **Vote:** Motion failed 5-7 by roll call vote with Rep. Hayman, Rep. Olsen, Rep. Pope, Rep. Stewart Peregoy and Rep. Sullivan voting aye. Rep. Doane and Rep. Galt voted by proxy.

17:42:00 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 704 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane and Rep. Galt voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 743

17:45:15 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 743 DO PASS**.

17:45:26 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees made a substitute motion that **HB 743 BE TABLED**. Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane and Rep. Galt voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 758

17:45:47 **Motion:** Rep. Skees moved that **HB 758 DO PASS.**

17:45:52 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Skees made a substitute motion that **HB 758 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Doane and Rep. Galt voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:47:36

Jacie Vonada, Secretary

jv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh63aad.pdf](#))