

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on January 16, 2019 at 3:04 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Scott Sales (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch
Mary Vandenbosch, 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 41, 1/10/2019; SB 47, 1/10/2019; SB 49, 1/10/2019

Executive Action: SB 46 Do Pass
SB 34 Do Pass

HEARING ON SB 41

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:06:21 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 41, Allow written bids for state trust land oil and gas leases.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:32 Trevor Taylor, petroleum engineer, Minerals Management Bureau, Trust Lands Management Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:10:57 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:12:49 Sen. Flowers

15:13:15 Mr. Taylor, DNRC

15:13:39 Sen. Flowers

15:13:53 Mr. Taylor

Closing by Sponsor:

15:14:15 Sen. Richmond

15:16:03 Sen. Richmond left the hearing.

15:16:03 Chairman Welborn

HEARING ON SB 47

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:16:45 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 47, Revise laws related to river basin councils.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:18:50 David Shively, member, Clark Fork and Kootenai River Basins Council Executive Committee (CFKRBC)

[EXHIBIT\(nas08a01\)](#)

15:21:11 Verdell Jackson, supervisor, Flathead County Conservation District

15:27:35 Erin Farris-Olsen, executive director, Montana Watershed Coordination Council

15:29:14 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:29:52 Paul Azevedo, Water Management Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

[EXHIBIT\(nas08a02\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:30:39 Sen. Hoven
 15:31:14 Sen. Cohenour
 15:31:25 Mr. Shively, CFKRBC
 15:32:52 Sen. Hoven
 15:33:22 Sen. Cohenour
 15:34:23 Sen. Hoven
 15:34:35 Sen. Cohenour

Closing by Sponsor:

15:35:05 Sen. Cohenour

 15:35:38 Chairman Welborn

HEARING ON SB 49

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:35:51 Sen. Jill Cohenour (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 49, Amend method for measuring water for aquifer recharge or mitigation.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:37:28 Millie Heffner, Water Rights Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
 15:39:02 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union

Opponents' Testimony:

15:39:29 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition (SrWRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nas08a03\)](#)

15:43:11 Chairman Welborn

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:43:42 Sen. Gillespie
 15:44:07 Ms. Evans, SrWRC

Closing by Sponsor:

15:45:11 Sen. Cohenour

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 46

15:46:00 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division
 15:47:10 Sen. Cohenour

15:48:31 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **SB 46 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Richmond and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 34

15:49:47 **Motion:** Sen. Pomnichowski moved that **SB 34 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:49:51 Sen. Barrett

15:50:04 Sen. Cohenour

15:50:13 Sen. Barrett

15:50:23 Mr. Mohr

15:50:39 Sen. Ankney

15:50:48 Chairman Welborn

15:51:32 Mr. Mohr

15:51:54 Chairman Welborn

15:51:59 Sen. Flowers

15:52:17 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Richmond and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

15:52:44 Sen. Esp

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:53 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

mv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas08aad.pdf](#))