

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Jason Small, on February 14, 2019 at 3:00 PM, in Room 422 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:**

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)  
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Mike Phillips (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch  
Jacelyn Stewart, 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 188, 2/12/2019; SB 199, 2/13/2019

Executive Action: HB 206 - Be Concurred In

**HEARING ON SB 188**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:02:41 Sen. Sue Malek (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on SB 188, Revise electricity supply resource planning and acquisition.

**EXHIBIT(ens31a01)**

Sen. Kary entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:17:16 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission

15:18:04 Diego Rivas, senior policy associate, NW Energy Coalition

Sen. Ankney entered the meeting and assumed the duties of the chair.

15:22:58 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Sen. McNally entered the meeting.

15:29:07 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

15:30:42 Bob Nelson, Montana Consumer Counsel

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:32:20 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Sen. Cuffe left the meeting.

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:38:42 Chair Ankney

15:39:12 Sen. Malek

15:39:30 Sen. Richmond

15:41:07 Mr. Hoffman, NWE

15:41:26 Sen. Richmond

15:41:47 Sen. Malek

15:42:26 Sen. Regier

15:43:01 Mr. Hoffman

15:43:20 Sen. McNally

15:46:50 Mr. Hoffman

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:47:19 Sen. Malek

**HEARING ON SB 199**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:52:42 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 199, Prohibit PSC from altering certain contract lengths.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:55:49 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:59:09 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission

16:00:26 Diego Rivas, senior policy associate, NW Energy Coalition

16:04:29 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center

16:07:55 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:10:06 Sen. Richmond

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 206**

16:12:37 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 206 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried 12-0 by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe voted by proxy. Sen. Blasdel will carry the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:15 PM

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Jacelyn Stewart, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ens31aad.pdf](#))