

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on February 25, 2019 at 2:33 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 299, 2/21/2019; SB 316, 2/22/2019

Executive Action: SB 316 - Be Tabled  
SB 299 - Do Pass as Amended  
HB 30 - Be Concurred In  
HB 44 - Be Concurred In  
HB 58 - Be Concurred In  
HJ 4 - Be Concurred In

**HEARING ON SB 316****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:38:08 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 316, Revise state land leasing.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

14:39:40 Sen. Pomnichowski  
14:40:05 Sen. Webb  
14:41:47 Sen. Pomnichowski  
14:42:07 Sen. Flowers  
14:42:35 Sen. Webb  
14:42:45 Sen. Pomnichowski  
14:43:01 Shawn Thomas, Trust Lands Management Division administrator, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
14:43:21 Sen. Pomnichowski  
14:44:28 Mr. Thomas, DNRC  
14:45:42 Sen. Pomnichowski  
14:46:09 Mr. Thomas

**Closing by Sponsor:**

14:47:17 Sen. Webb

**HEARING ON SB 299****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:47:31 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 299, Generally revise laws related to sage grouse conservation.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

14:50:44 Geoff Feiss, general manager, Montana Telecommunications Association  
14:58:20 Tim Nixdorf, Triangle Communications  
15:03:56 Jason Rittal, deputy director, Montana Association of Counties  
15:05:10 Corey Baker, Westech Environmental Services Inc.  
15:09:27 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana; Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:13:17 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association  
15:17:18 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association  
15:18:32 John Tubbs, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)  
15:23:47 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
15:24:49 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

15:25:52 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts  
 15:34:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association  
 15:35:50 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

**EXHIBIT(nas40a01)**

15:42:14 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation; National Wildlife Federation; Greater  
 Yellowstone Coalition; National Parks Conservation Association  
 15:46:12 Whitney Tawney, Montana Conservation Voters  
 15:47:59 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:49:49 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 15:50:32 Sen. Lang  
 15:52:07 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 15:52:18 Sen. Lang  
 15:56:38 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 15:57:26 Sen. Lang  
 15:57:47 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 15:58:49 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC  
 16:01:14 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:01:50 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:04:14 Sen. Gillespie  
 16:05:00 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:08:43 Sen. Flowers  
 16:09:26 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:11:08 Sen. Flowers  
 16:12:04 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:16:32 Sen. Flowers  
 16:17:00 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:17:16 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:17:40 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:20:06 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:20:23 Mr. Tubbs  
 16:20:55 Sen. Hoven  
 16:21:13 Mr. Nixdorf, Triangle Communications  
 16:22:28 Sen. Hoven  
 16:22:41 Mr. Nixdorf  
 16:22:58 Sen. Hoven  
 16:23:04 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:23:19 Mr. Nixdorf  
 16:27:06 Sen. Hoven  
 16:28:35 Sen. Lang  
 16:30:07 Chairman Welborn  
 16:31:16 Sen. Lang

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:35:37 Sen. Lang

**ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY ON SB 316****Opponents' Testimony:**

16:37:32 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)  
16:39:30 Sen. Hoven  
16:40:45 Mr. Bodner, MSGA  
16:41:56 Sen. Pomnichowski  
16:42:38 Mr. Thomas, DNRC  
16:43:44 Sen. Gillespie  
16:44:21 Mr. Thomas  
16:44:37 Sen. Gillespie  
16:44:42 Mr. Thomas  
16:45:08 Sen. Gillespie  
16:45:14 Mr. Thomas  
16:45:50 Chairman Welborn  
  
16:46:07 Recess  
17:04:35 Reconvene

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 316**

17:05:02 **Motion:** Sen. Richmond moved that **SB 316 DO PASS.**  
  
17:05:09 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp made a Substitute Motion that **SB 316 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 299**

17:05:32 **Motion:** Sen. Richmond moved that **SB 299 DO PASS.**  
  
17:05:48 **Motion:** Sen. Richmond moved that **SB 299 BE AMENDED.**  
**EXHIBIT(nas40a02)**

**Discussion:**

17:06:09 Sen. Pomnichowski  
17:08:03 Sen. Ankney  
17:08:57 Sen. Jacobson  
17:09:27 Sen. Barrett  
  
17:10:32 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-2 by voice vote with Sen. Flowers and Sen. Jacobson voting no. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.  
  
17:11:29 **Motion:** Sen. Richmond moved that **SB 299 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

17:11:39 Sen. Pomnichowski  
17:13:05 Sen. Esp  
17:13:59 Sen. Ankney  
17:15:25 Sen. Hoven

17:16:15 Sen. Cohenour  
 17:18:41 Sen. Flowers

17:19:52 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Pomnichowski voting no. Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

17:20:46 Sen. Pomnichowski left the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 4**

17:21:42 **Motion:** Sen. Ankney moved that **HJ 4 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

17:22:20 Sen. Cohenour

17:22:44 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Flowers, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Pomnichowski voting no. Sen. Pomnichowski and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Ankney will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 58**

17:24:06 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **HB 58 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

17:24:37 Sen. Cohenour  
 17:25:20 Sen. Hoven

17:25:57 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Pomnichowski and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Gillespie will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 30**

17:26:39 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Esp moved that **HB 30 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Pomnichowski and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 44**

17:27:52 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **HB 44 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Pomnichowski and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

**Committee Discussion:**

17:29:12 Sen. Ankney  
 17:29:18 Chairman Welborn  
 17:29:21 Sen. Richmond  
 17:29:25 Chairman Welborn

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:30 PM

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Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas40aad.pdf](#))