

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on March 20, 2019 at 2:05 P.M., 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. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
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: HB 441, 3/15/2019; SB 329, 3/15/2019

Executive Action: HB 276 - Be Tabled
HB 505 - Be Concurred In

HEARING ON SB 329**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:06:26 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 329, Allow for extension of state coal leases.

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

14:09:06 Steve Wade, Great Northern Properties, L.P.
14:10:50 Bud Clinch, executive director, Montana Coal Council
14:11:42 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

Opponents' Testimony:

14:13:02 Cody Ferguson, Northern Plains Resource Council

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a02\)](#)

14:16:29 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

Informational Testimony:

14:18:57 John Tubbs, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a03\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

14:20:13 Sen. Cohenour
14:20:32 Sen. Richmond
14:21:27 Sen. Cohenour
14:21:39 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC
14:24:30 Sen. Flowers
14:25:09 Mr. Tubbs

14:27:13 Chairman Welborn left the hearing. Sen. Pomnichowski assumed the responsibilities of the Chair.

14:27:13 Chair Pomnichowski

14:28:02 Mr. Tubbs

Closing by Sponsor:

14:30:01 Sen. Richmond

Additional Proponent:

14:32:19 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties

Additional Opponent:

14:32:37 Jake Brown, Montana Conservation Voters

14:33:40 Recess

14:52:43 Reconvene

Sen. Ankney was present.

HEARING ON HB 441**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

14:52:49 Rep. Kerry White (R), HD 64, opened the hearing on HB 441, Repeal timber conservation license in lieu of sale

Proponents' Testimony:

14:54:54 Ed Regan, RY Timber

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a04\)](#)

14:59:34 Christine Johnson, Nine Mile Venture

15:02:31 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Building Industry Association

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a05\)](#)

15:03:32 Kendall Cotton, policy adviser, Office of the Montana State Auditor,
Commissioner of Securities and Insurance

15:04:28 Karl Kanduch, Kanduch Logging

15:06:00 Michael Christianson, president, Montana Forest Owners Association

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a06\)](#)

15:09:02 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

15:10:05 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association (MWPA)

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a07\)](#)

15:12:07 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association (MLA); Montana American
Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

Opponents' Testimony:

15:14:51 Tim Tousignant, Save Our Gallatin Front

[EXHIBIT\(nas57a08 \)](#)

15:25:56 Ron Matelich, board member, Save Our Gallatin Front

15:31:10 John Tubbs, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
(DNRC)

15:36:21 Whitney Tawney, Montana Conservation Voters

15:37:54 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:42:07 Sen. Barrett

15:42:53 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC

15:47:33 Sen. Welborn

15:48:12 Mr. Tubbs

15:51:54 Sen. Welborn

15:53:17 Mr. Regan

15:54:48 Sen. Flowers

15:55:29 Mr. Tubbs

16:00:05 Sen. Cohenour

16:00:43 Mr. Todhunter, MLA

16:05:37 Sen. Cohenour
 16:06:04 Mr. Tubbs
 16:07:44 Sen. Ankney
 16:08:12 Mr. Tubbs
 16:10:07 Sen. Jacobson
 16:10:44 Mr. Tubbs
 16:17:46 Sen. Barrett
 16:19:21 Mr. Tubbs
 16:23:59 Sen. Barrett
 16:24:15 Chair Pomnichowski
 16:24:35 Mr. Tubbs
 16:27:33 Chair Pomnichowski
 16:27:57 Ms. Altemus, MWPA

Closing by Sponsor:

16:28:52 Rep. White
 16:38:57 Chair Pomnichowski
 16:39:04 Chairman Welborn resumed the responsibilities of the chair.
 16:39:43 Sen. Pomnichowski
 16:39:50 Recess
 16:52:42 Reconvene

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 276

16:52:44 **Motion:** Sen. Richmond moved that **HB 276 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

16:53:10 Sen. Pomnichowski
 16:54:38 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Sen. Cohenour made a Substitute Motion that **HB 276 BE TABLED.** Substitute Motion carried 8-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Ankney, Sen. Gillespie, Sen. Richmond and Sen. S. Sales voting no. Sen. Gillespie and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 505

16:55:55 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Richmond moved that **HB 505 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Gillespie and Sen. S. Sales voted by proxy. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

Committee Discussion:

16:57:05 Chairman Welborn
 16:57:37 Mary Vandenbosch, committee secretary

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:48 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

mv

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas57aad.pdf](#))