

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 66th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on April 5, 2019 at 3:42 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. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
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 411, 4/2/2019; SR 50, 4/2/2019; HB 722, 4/3/2019

HEARING ON HB 722**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:43:53 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 722, Allow transfer of hard rock mining permit.

[EXHIBIT\(nas71a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:46:45 Tammy Johnson, executive director, Montana Mining Association

15:49:14 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:50:10 Shantil Siaperas, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:50:49 Dan Walsh, Hard Rock Mining Bureau chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:51:15 Sen. Cohenour

15:51:46 Rep. Gunderson

15:52:00 Sen. Cohenour

15:53:04 Mr. Walsh, DEQ

15:53:35 Sen. Cohenour

15:53:56 Mr. Walsh

15:54:31 Sen. Pomnichowski

15:54:52 Rep. Gunderson

15:55:14 Sen. Pomnichowski

15:55:44 Mr. Walsh

15:58:42 Sen. Richmond

15:59:18 Mr. Walsh

15:59:32 Sen. Richmond

Closing by Sponsor:

15:59:54 Rep. Gunderson

HEARING ON HB 411**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:02:40 Rep. Willis Curdy (D), HD 98, opened the hearing on HB 411, Revise laws related to AIS expenditures and funding.

[EXHIBIT\(nas71a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:08:21 Bob Gilbert, executive director, Walleyes Unlimited of Montana

16:10:19 Dan Rostad, Yellowstone River Conservation Districts Council

16:11:14 Steve Tyrrel, Central and Eastern Montana Invasive Species Team

16:13:13 Rachel Frost, coordinator, Missouri River Conservation Districts Council

16:14:43 Dan McGowan, executive director, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

16:16:13 Tom Ebzery, Avista Corporation

EXHIBIT(nas71a03)

16:17:33 Jan Rouse, NorthWestern Energy

16:18:02 Joann Wallenburn, Clearwater Resource Council

16:20:13 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators

16:20:40 Brian Ohs, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana CattleWomen

16:21:02 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited; Montana Wildlife Federation

16:21:33 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

16:22:04 Liv Stavick, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

16:22:24 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

16:22:38 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:23:00 Joel Weltzien, Montana Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

16:23:20 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

16:23:59 Julian Adler, Montana Public Interest Research Group

16:24:25 Cindy Palmer, Montana Farmers Union

16:24:40 John Tubbs, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:25:12 Martha Williams, director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

Opponents' Testimony:

16:27:56 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association

16:30:19 Shelli Mann, general manager, Boothill Inn and Suites; Yellowstone County Lodging Association

16:31:40 Matt Sease, chair, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association

16:34:40 Randy Pinocci, District 1 commissioner, Public Service Commission

16:36:35 Steve Wahrlich

Informational Testimony:

16:39:47 Tara Rice, director, Department of Commerce

EXHIBIT(nas71a04)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:40:07 Sen. Pomnichowski

16:40:40 Mr. Tubbs, DNRC

16:42:15 Sen. Pomnichowski

16:42:33 Rep. Curdy

Closing by Sponsor:

16:43:35 Rep. Curdy

16:48:18 Chairman Welborn

HEARING ON SR 50

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:50:08 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR 50, Confirm Governor's appointees to Board of Environmental Review.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:50:59 Sen. Barrett

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

16:52:14 Sen. Welborn

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:55 PM

Mary Vandebosch, Secretary

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Additional Documents

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas71aad.pdf](#))