

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier, on February 11, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Rep. Wendy McKamey (R)
Rep. Frank Smith (D)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Rynalea Whiteman Pena (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Julie Dooling, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Committee Secretary
Corina Hach, Legislative Branch
Hallie Swain, Remote Meeting Coordinator

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 311, 2/5/2021; HB 312, 2/5/2021; HB 324, 2/8/2021

HEARING ON HB 311**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:03:04 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, opened the hearing on HB 311, Generally revise bison laws.

15:07:24 Rep. Curdy left the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:07:41 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC)

15:11:21 Lauren Monroe Jr, Blackfeet Nation; Blackfeet Tribal Business Council (BTBC)

15:13:27 Sam Forstag, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLU)

15:13:50 Rep. Malone joined the meeting.

15:14:17 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT(agh29a01)

15:14:25 Vice Chair Olsen joined the meeting.

15:14:51 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT)

15:15:40 Daniel Wenner, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

EXHIBIT(agh29a02)

15:18:11 Majel Russell, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITCB) Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

EXHIBIT(agh29a03)

15:21:47 Laurie Little Dog, self

EXHIBIT(agh29a04)

15:22:31 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)

15:23:20 Dennis Jorgensen, World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:24:42 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:25:10 Vice Chair Dooling joined the meeting.

15:29:13 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:31:22 Marty Zaluski, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

EXHIBIT(agh29a05)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:35:12 Rep. Marshall

15:36:16 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; ITBC

15:36:43 Rep. Malone

15:38:49 Rep. Weatherwax

15:39:14 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; ITBC

15:41:10 Rep. Walsh

15:43:39 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; ITBC

15:44:37 Daniel Wenner, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

15:45:25 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

15:47:57 Vice Chair Olsen
15:48:41 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe
15:51:54 Rep. F. Smith
15:52:18 Raylee Honeycutt, MSGA
15:52:52 Rep. F. Smith
15:53:12 Marty Zaluski, MDOL
15:54:36 Rep. Whiteman Pena
15:55:11 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; ITBC
15:55:30 Rep. Whiteman Pena
15:59:02 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe
16:00:55 Rep. Binkley
16:01:34 Rep. Weatherwax

Closing by Sponsor:

16:02:02 Rep. Weatherwax

16:02:50 Brief Recess
16:06:24 Reconvened with Rep. Anderson excused.

HEARING ON HB 312**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:06:45 Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D), HD 15, opened the hearing on HB 312, Generally revise bison laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:11:26 Robert Magnan, Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes (FAST); Fish & Game Department

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a06\)](#)

16:15:20 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC)
16:20:23 Dan Bailey, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a07\)](#)

16:22:18 Laurie Little Dog, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a08\)](#)

16:23:10 Rep. Curdy rejoined the meeting.
16:23:16 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a09\)](#)

16:25:30 Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a10\)](#)

16:27:19 Chair Kassmier left the meeting.
16:27:24 Vice Chair Dooling assumed the Chair.
16:28:35 Daniel Wenner, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a11\)](#)

16:30:11 Majel Russell, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITCB) Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe
EXHIBIT(agh29a12)

16:31:21 Rep. Kassmier assumed the Chair.

16:36:12 Dennis Jorgensen, Northern Great Plains Program of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

16:38:42 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)

16:39:30 Jordan Thompson, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe (CSKT)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:40:11 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

16:43:35 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

16:44:08 Rep. McKamey left the meeting.

16:45:32 Marty Zaluski, Montana Department of Livestock (MDOL)

EXHIBIT(agh29a13)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:49:36 Rep. Malone

16:51:30 Rep. Weatherwax

16:52:15 Rep. Malone

16:52:40 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

16:53:50 Rep. Malone

16:54:15 Rep. Weatherwax

16:54:32 Rep. Funk

16:59:54 Marty Zaluski, MDOL

17:00:49 Rep. Funk

17:01:39 Dan Bailey, NPCA

17:02:56 Rep. Walsh

17:07:10 Marty Zaluski, MDOL

17:07:42 Rep. Binkley

17:07:57 Marty Zaluski, MDOL

17:08:39 Rep. Marshall

17:09:05 Marty Zaluski, MDOL

17:11:14 Vice Chair Olsen

17:12:03 Majel Russell, ITBC

Closing by Sponsor:

17:15:05 Rep. Weatherwax

17:16:05 Recess

17:24:22 Reconvened

HEARING ON HB 324**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:24:37 Rep. Frank Smith (D), HD 31, opened the hearing on HB 324, Generally revise certain labeling laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:26:18 Cole Mannix, Grow Montana Food Policy Coalition; self
17:28:25 McKenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
17:29:13 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)
17:30:00 Peter Mickelsen, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a14\)](#)

17:33:10 Walter Schweitzer, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a15\)](#)

17:39:32 Jeanie Alderson, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC); Omega Beef; self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a16\)](#)

17:43:17 Benjamin Peterson, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a17\)](#)

17:45:20 Jamie Lockman, Montana Organic Association (MOA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a18\)](#)

17:48:17 Linda Roche, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a19\)](#)

17:50:3 Chair Kassmeir

17:51:12 Rex Reilly, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a20\)](#)

17:53:32 John Bailey, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a21\)](#)

17:55:26 Eric Bergman, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a22\)](#)

17:56:11 Adela Awner, self

17:58:43 Ken Morris, Montana Cattlemen's Association (MCA)

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a23\)](#)

18:02:30 Scott Sweeney, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh29a24\)](#)**Opponents' Testimony:**

18:03:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

18:05:32 Rep. Whiteman Pena left the meeting.

18:07:28 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

18:11:10 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce; Montana Retail Association
(MRA)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

18:12:54 Rep. Malone
18:13:13 Rep. F. Smith
18:13:48 Rep. Marshall
18:16:30 Jay Bodner, MSGA
18:16:50 Rep. Funk
18:19:54 Nicole Rolf, MFBF
18:21:23 Rep. Curdy
18:22:07 Jay Bogner, MSGA
18:23:23 Nicole Rolf, MFBF
18:24:01 Rep. Curdy
18:24:19 Nicole Rolf, MFBF
18:25:02 Rep. Curdy
18:25:14 Rachel Prevost, MFU
18:25:26 Walter Schweitzer, MFU
18:27:55 Rep. Sullivan
18:29:46 Walter Schweitzer, MFU
18:30:31 Rep. Sullivan
18:31:12 Chair Kassmier
18:31:37 Rep. Ler
18:32:25 Rep. Funk
18:33:06 McKenna Sellers, NPRC

Closing by Sponsor:

18:34:29 Rep. F. Smith

18:36:07 Chair Kassmier
18:36:33 Rep. Marshall

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:36:46

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh29aad.pdf](#))