

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Derek Skees, on February 15, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Derek Skees, Chair (R)
Rep. Denise Hayman, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Andrea Olsen (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

Members Excused:

Rep. Neil Duram (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present:

Brittany Bury, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Taylor Eggebrecht, 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 314, 2/10/2021; HB 376, 2/10/2021

14:59:42 Chair Skees
15:01:38 Rep. Duram joined the meeting

HEARING ON HB 376

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:00:47 Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy (D), HD 32, withdrew the hearing on HB 376, Revise laws to bring electric and telephone coops in compliance with federal law.

HEARING ON HB 314

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:35 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 314, Require PSC to consider economic impact of coal plant closure.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:04:48 Rep. Ler
15:05:36 Martha Potter, Superintendent of Schools, Savage

[EXHIBIT\(feh31a01\)](#)

15:07:13 Rep. Sullivan joined the meeting
15:15:43 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)
15:16:51 Randy Pinocci, self (PSC does not support this bill)
15:21:59 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip
15:25:59 Drew Zinecker, self
15:29:37 Mayor Rick Norby, Sidney
15:30:51 Daniel Farr, self
15:33:32 Molly Schwend, Montana Coal Counsel (MCC)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:36:31 Amiee Grmjolez, Crawley Fleck
15:39:55 Diego Rivas, North West Energy Coalition (NVEC)
15:43:40 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
15:47:35 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC)

Informational Testimony:

15:52:13 Robin Arnold, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:54:06 Rep. Phalen
15:54:49 Randy Pinocci, self
15:57:15 Chair Skees
15:57:30 Vice Chair Zolnikov
15:58:03 Rep. Mitchell
15:58:54 Randy Pinocci, self
16:00:47 Vice Chair Zolnikov
16:00:54 Randy Pinocci, self
16:01:50 Vice Chair Zolnikov
16:02:03 Robin Arnold, PSC

16:02:45 Chair Skees
16:03:20 Rep. Mitchell
16:03:36 Rep. Phalen
16:04:10 Drew Zinecker, self

Closing by Sponsor:

16:06:10 Rep. Mitchell

16:07:35 Chair Skees

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 376

16:08:07 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 376 BE TABLED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:08:39 Chair Skees
16:09:56 Vice Chair Hayman
16:10:00 Chair Skees

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment:
16:11:44

Brittany Bury, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh31aad.pdf](#))