

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: Chair Joshua Kassmier, on February 16, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 137
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)
Rep. Julie Dooling, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Andrea Olsen, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)
Rep. Becky Beard (R)
Rep. Willis Curdy (D)
Rep. Moffie Funk (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Marty Malone (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. Michele Binkley (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (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 302, 2/10/2021; HB 318, 2/10/2021; HB 82, 2/10/2021
Executive Action: HB 294; SB 58

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 294

15:04:44 **Motion:** Rep. Dooling moved that **HB 294 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:05:01 Vice Chair Olsen

15:05:22 Corina Hach, Legislative Service Division (LSD)

15:06:13 Rep. McKamey

15:06:34 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Binkley and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 58

15:07:40 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Dooling moved that **SB 58 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Binkley and Rep. C. Knudsen voted by proxy. Rep. Kassmier will carry the bill.

HEARING ON HB 82**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:09:28 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 82, Clarify administrative expense cap on pulse crop research, marketing program.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:12:14 Rep. Schillinger

15:12:26 Rep. Binkley joined the meeting.

Informational Testimony:

15:15:34 Cort Jensen, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

15:16:29 Cindy Trimp, Montana Department of Agriculture (AGR)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:16:57 Rep. McKamey

15:21:55 Rep. Schillinger

15:22:50 Vice Chair Olsen

15:26:24 Cort Jensen, AGR

Closing by Sponsor:

15:27:21 Rep. Walsh

HEARING ON HB 318**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:28:33 Rep. Kenneth Holmlund (R), HD 38, opened the hearing on HB 318, Clarify definition of bison.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:32:11 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

EXHIBIT(agh32a01)

15:33:36 Bob Gilbert, Phillips County

15:34:18 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:35:25 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:36:50 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)

15:37:43 Commissioner Jerry Collins, Garfield County

Opponents' Testimony:

15:39:25 Sen. Fox, Fort Belknap Indian Community Council (FBICC)

15:40:38 Mike Nelson, Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC)

15:41:53 Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife

EXHIBIT(agh32a02)

15:43:27 Thomas Elpel, self

EXHIBIT(agh32a03)

15:45:03 Floyd Azure, Chairman of the Fort Peck assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

15:47:09 Matt Leow, Montana Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

15:48:20 Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)

15:49:05 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)

15:50:06 Kit Fischer, Nation Wildlife Federation (NWF)

EXHIBIT(agh32a04)

15:51:22 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT(agh32a05)

15:53:54 Laurie Little Dog, self

15:55:50 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC)

15:58:49 Majel Russell, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

16:01:52 Dan Wenner, InterTriabal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

16:03:17 James Bailey, Montana Wild Bison Restoration Coalition

EXHIBIT(agh32a06)**Informational Testimony:** None**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:07:44 Rep. Curdy

16:09:29 Sen. Fox

16:09:48 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

16:10:49 Rep. Malone

16:11:16 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

16:11:43 Vice Chair Olsen

16:14:22 Rep. Holmlund
16:15:22 Rep. F. Smith
16:18:00 Rep. Holmlund
16:18:40 Vice Chair Olsen
16:19:12 Majel Russell, ITBC; Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

Closing by Sponsor:

16:20:48 Rep. Holmlund

16:23:24 Recess
16:43:55 Reconvened with Vice Chair Dooling as the Chair.

HEARING ON HB 302**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:44:04 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 302, Require county approval to relocate bison.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:45:58 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
16:48:04 Chuck Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)
16:49:23 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)
16:50:30 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
16:52:11 Commissioner Jerry Collins, Garfield County

Opponents' Testimony:

16:53:40 Sen. Fox, Fort Belknap Indian Community Council (FBICC)
16:56:01 Mike Nelson, Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC)
16:56:56 Eric Melson, Montana Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)
16:57:55 Kelli Twoteeth, Montana Native Vote (MNV); Indigenous Organizers' Collective (IOC)
16:59:26 Laurie Little Dog, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh32a07\)](#)

17:00:33 Chamois Andersen, Defenders of Wildlife

[EXHIBIT\(agh32a08\)](#)

17:03:13 Kit Fischer, National Wildlife Federation (NWF)

[EXHIBIT\(agh32a09\)](#)

17:04:41 Amy McNamara, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC)

[EXHIBIT\(agh32a10\)](#)

17:06:28 Thomas Elpel, self

[EXHIBIT\(agh32a11\)](#)

17:09:05 Eric Clewis, Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF)
17:10:20 Floyd Azure, Chairman of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
17:14:11 Brooke Shifrin, Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC)

17:16:13 Dan Bailey, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)
[EXHIBIT\(agh32a12\)](#)

17:17:28 Adrian Jawort, Montana Native Vote (MNV)
[EXHIBIT\(agh32a13\)](#)

17:19:48 Danielle Vazquez, Indigenous Organizers' Collective (IOC)
[EXHIBIT\(agh32a14\)](#)

17:20:48 Dalayah Killsback, Western Native Voice (WNV)
17:22:54 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon
[EXHIBIT\(agh32a15\)](#)

17:26:41 Majel Russell, InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe
17:29:16 Jim Bailey, Montana Wild Bison Restoration Coalition
[EXHIBIT\(agh32a16\)](#)

17:34:09 Ervin Carlson, Blackfeet Nation; InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC)
17:36:15 Dan Wenner, InterTriabal Buffalo Council (ITBC); Fort Peck Tribes; Crow Tribe

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:39:19 Rep. Marshall
17:41:03 Rep. Kassmier

Closing by Sponsor:

17:41:24 Rep. Kassmier

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:43:55

Jacquelynn Bomgardner, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([agh32aad.pdf](#))