

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Derek Skees, on February 22, 2021 at 3:20 PM, in Room 472
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

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

Members Excused:

Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Vice Chair (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 414, 2/17/2021; HB 442, 2/17/2021; HB 448, 2/17/2021; HB 475, 2/19/2021; HB 492, 2/19/2021

15:22:46 Chair Skees

HEARING ON HB 414

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:24:43 Rep. Andrea Olsen (D), HD 100, opened the hearing on HB 414, Require public utilities to report a plan for 100% renewable.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:27:04 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

15:29:21 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Informational Center (MEIC)

15:36:16 Makenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Counsel (NPRC)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:30:26 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

15:31:30 Mike Green, Crawley Fleck

15:32:27 Drew Zinecker, self

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:37:27 Chair Skees

15:37:31 Vice Chair Hayman

15:37:55 Rep. Olsen

15:38:57 Chair Skees

15:39:41 Rep. Olsen

15:40:19 Chair Skees

15:40:30 Rep. Custer

15:41:03 Rep. Olsen

Closing by Sponsor:

15:42:48 Rep. Olsen

15:43:51 Chair Skees

HEARING ON HB 448

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:44:30 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 448, Increasing the cap on non-residential net metering systems.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:46:07 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

[EXHIBIT\(feh37a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh37a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh37a03\)](#)

15:49:02 Vice Chair Zolnikov entered the meeting

15:52:30 Dan Perata, self

15:57:42 Kyle MacVean, Harvest Solar

16:00:24 Rebecca Ritter, Spark R&D

16:03:10 Sherrie Arey, Neighbor Works

16:05:46 John Finn, Lewis & Clark Library
 16:07:45 Sam Spector, Sweet Grass County High School

Opponents' Testimony:

16:11:46 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
 16:15:53 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA)
 16:19:06 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 44 (IBEW44)
 16:20:58 Mike Green, Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU)
 16:22:45 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
 16:23:00 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 44 (IBEW44)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:23:48 Rep. Duram
 16:24:49 Dan Perata, self
 16:26:02 Rep. Duram
 16:27:27 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:27:34 Vice Chair Hayman
 16:28:19 Dan Perata, self
 16:29:36 Vice Chair Hayman
 16:31:53 Rep. Kortum
 16:32:47 Rep. Kassmier
 16:33:02 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:34:36 Rep. Duram
 16:35:05 Dan Perata, self
 16:35:34 Vice Chair Zolnikov
 16:36:27 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:37:44 Rep. Phalen
 16:37:54 Rep. Brewster
 16:38:25 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:39:06 Chair Skees
 16:41:39 Dwight Rose, IBEW44
 16:42:33 Chair Skees
 16:43:46 David Hoffman, NWE
 16:44:17 Chair Skees
 16:44:28 Andrew Valainis, MREA

EXHIBIT(feh37a04)

16:49:23 Rep. Phalen
 16:50:12 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:51:25 Rep. Duram
 16:52:44 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:54:06 Rep. Phalen
 16:54:24 Chair Skees
 16:55:46 Doug Hardy, MECA
 16:56:12 Vice Chair Zolnikov
 16:56:56 Andrew Valainis, MREA
 16:59:22 Rep. Brewster
 16:59:42 Dan Perata, self
 17:00:23 Vice Chair Hayman

Closing by Sponsor:

17:01:19 Rep. Kassmier

17:01:47 Chair Skees

HEARING ON HB 492

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:02:43 Rep. Brad Tschida (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 492, Protecting children on the internet act.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:07:58 Harris Haims, Big Sky Christian Center

17:09:37 Jeff Laszloffy, Montana Family Foundation (MFF)

17:12:57 Matthew Brower, Montana Catholic Conference

Opponents' Testimony:

17:16:03 Mark Baker, AT&T and Charter Communications

[EXHIBIT\(feh37a05\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(feh37a06\)](#)

17:24:45 Charlotte Lauerman, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)

17:25:57 Jessie Luther, Motion Picture Association America (MPAA)

17:28:45 Kevin Hamm, Treasure State Internet

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:35:36 Rep. Kortum

17:36:14 Mark Baker, AT&T and Charter Communications

17:36:55 Rep. Custer

17:38:06 Mark Baker, AT&T and Charter Communications

17:39:39 Chair Skees

17:40:01 Rep. Tschida

17:40:38 Vice Chair Zolnikov

17:40:55 Rep. Tschida

17:42:35 Chair Skees

17:42:59 Jeff Laszloffy, MFF

Closing by Sponsor:

17:43:40 Rep. Tschida

17:49:09 Chair Skees

17:49:52 Vice Chair Zolnikov assumed the Chair

HEARING ON HB 442

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:50:32 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB 442, Provide for ratemaking mechanisms.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:53:28 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:54:20 Mike Green, Crowley Fleck

Informational Testimony:

17:59:02 Robin Arnold, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:59:24 Rep. Duram
18:00:07 Mike Green, Crowley Fleck
18:01:11 Vice Chair Zolnikov
18:01:34 Rep. Skees
18:02:29 Rep. Custer
18:03:01 Mike Green, Crowley Fleck

Closing by Sponsor:

18:05:02 Rep. Skees

18:06:46 Vice Chair Zolnikov

HEARING ON HB 475

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

18:07:04 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB 475, Revise Renewable Portfolio Standard to include hydropower.

Proponents' Testimony:

18:07:48 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
18:08:12 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #44 (IBEW44)
18:08:54 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA)
18:09:13 Adam Haight, Montana AFL-CIO
18:09:31 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

Opponents' Testimony:

18:10:05 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
18:11:05 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG)
18:12:37 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

18:14:44 Rep. Duram
18:16:07 Anne Hedges, MEIC
18:16:24 Rep. Custer

18:16:59 Anne Hedges, MEIC
18:17:22 David Hoffman, NWE
18:17:54 Rep. Custer
18:18:03 David Hoffman, NWE
18:18:25 Vice Chair Hayman
18:18:42 Anne Hedges, MEIC
18:18:57 Vice Chair Zolnikov
18:19:25 Anne Hedges, MEIC
18:20:12 David Hoffman, NWE
18:20:33 Rep. Duram
18:21:10 Rep. Skees

Closing by Sponsor:

18:21:24 Rep. Skees

18:23:20 Vice Chair Zolnikov
18:23:31 Rep. Skees assumed the Chair
18:23:44 Chair Skees
18:25:38 Rep. Duram
18:25:57 Chair Skees
18:26:41 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
18:27:03 Chair Skees
18:28:19 Vice Chair Zolnikov

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:28:33

Brittany Bury, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh37aad.pdf](#))