

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Derek Skees, on March 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. 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: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Brittany Bury, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Audio Notification

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: SB 84, 3/11/2021; SB 87, 3/11/2021; SB 183, 3/11/2021

15:00:12 Chair Skees

HEARING ON SB 84

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:01:16 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB 84, Generally revise consumer committee laws.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

15:06:39 Makenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

15:09:13 Dave Ashley, self

[EXHIBIT](#)(feh51a01)

15:13:38 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Testimony:

15:16:55 Bob Nelson, Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:17:39 Rep. Phalen

15:18:46 Sen. Ankney

15:20:04 Vice Chair Hayman

15:20:55 Bob Nelson, MCC

15:22:35 Vice Chair Hayman

15:24:33 Sen. Ankney

15:25:52 Vice Chair Zolnikov

15:26:18 Sen. Ankney

15:26:54 Rep. Duram

15:27:27 Sen. Ankney

15:27:54 Rep. Custer

15:30:36 Bob Nelson, MCC

15:31:08 Chair Skees

15:32:09 Sen. Ankney

15:32:49 Chair Skees

15:33:16 Makenna Sellers, NPRC

15:34:09 Chair Skees

15:37:46 Bob Nelson, MCC

15:38:01 Vice Chair Hayman

15:41:11 Makenna Sellers, NPRC

Closing by Sponsor:

15:43:01 Sen. Ankney

15:43:33 Rep. Olsen joined the meeting.

15:45:17 Chair Skees

HEARING ON SB 87**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:45:37 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB 87, Revise coal-fired power/water-right owner legal responsibilities.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:48:52 Mayor John Williams, Colstrip
15:57:07 Jim Atchison, Southeastern Montana Development (SMD)
15:59:03 Adam Haight, American Federation of Labor and Chief of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
15:59:49 Mick Wonmacott, self
16:00:11 Luke Hoffer, IVW 233
16:00:24 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 44 (IBEW44)
16:01:20 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip
16:02:02 Derek Hitt, Carpenters of Local 82
16:02:51 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MCLT)

Opponents' Testimony:

16:03:40 Tom Ebzery, Avista Generation, Portland General Electric
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a02\)](#)

16:09:38 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy
16:11:59 Charles Denowh, Rocky Mountain Power (RMP)
16:13:07 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Testimony:

16:15:04 Jenny Chambers, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:15:43 Rep. Brewster
16:17:32 Charles Denowh, RMP
16:17:40 Vice Chair Hayman
16:18:36 Tom Ebzery, Avista Generation, Portland General Electric
16:19:10 Vice Chair Hayman
16:19:34 Jenny Chambers, DEQ
16:21:36 Rep. Duram
16:22:36 Mayor John Williams, Colstrip
16:24:43 Rep. Custer
16:28:24 Mayor John Williams, Colstrip
16:29:54 Rep. Custer
16:31:53 Jenny Chambers, DEQ
16:32:39 Chair Skees
16:32:47 Rep. Duram
16:36:07 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy
16:36:15 Rep. Olsen
16:39:24 Sen. Ankney
16:39:40 Chair Skees
16:40:00 Rep. Olsen

16:40:28 Sen. Ankney
16:40:53 Vice Chair Zolnikov
16:43:45 Sen. Ankney
16:44:20 Vice Chair Zolnikov
16:45:52 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy
16:47:40 Rep. Custer
16:49:22 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy
16:50:16 Chair Skees
16:51:29 Sen. Ankney
16:52:14 Chair Skees

Closing by Sponsor:

16:52:29 Sen. Ankney

16:57:15 Chair Skees
16:59:58 Vice Chair Zolnikov assumed the chair

HEARING ON SB 183

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

17:00:10 Sen. Greg Hertz (R), SD 6, opened the hearing on SB 183, Revise statute of limitation laws regarding overbilling of telecom services.

Proponents' Testimony:

17:01:15 Jay Preston, Ronan Telephone Company
17:05:50 Jeff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)

Opponents' Testimony:

17:06:59 Mark Baker, AT&T
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a03\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a04\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

17:12:19 Rep. Olsen
17:15:33 Mark Baker, AT&T
17:16:11 Rep. Olsen
[EXHIBIT\(feh51a05\)](#)

17:17:59 Sen. Hertz

Closing by Sponsor:

17:18:15 Sen. Hertz

17:19:04 Vice Chair Zolnikov
17:19:13 Chair Skees Assumed the Chair
17:22:19 Vice Chair Hayman

17:22:28 Chair Skees
17:23:06 Rep. Olsen
17:23:37 Trevor Graff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
17:23:48 Chair Skees
17:23:51 Rep. Phalen
17:24:01 Chair Skees
17:24:40 Rep. Olsen
17:25:24 Chair Skees

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:25:50

Brittany Bury, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([feh51aad.pdf](#))