

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Hertz, on January 14, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Brian Hoven, Chair (R)  
Sen. Greg Hertz, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch  
Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary  
Karli Kusler, 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: SB 85, 1/8/2021; SB 73, 1/8/2021  
Executive Action: SB 6, Do Pass, SB 30, Do Pass

**HEARING ON SB 85****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:03:24 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB85, Generally revise taxation of renewable energy.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:08:29 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:12:21 Scott Aspenlieder, self

09:15:06 Mark Klein, Broad Reach Power

09:17:21 Jess Melin, NextEra Energy Resources

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a01\)](#)**

09:19:03 Bridger Malum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

09:20:22 Mark Esponda, Dick Anderson Construction, DA Wind

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a02\)](#)**

09:22:19 Susan Kronenberger, Helena

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a03\)](#)**

09:24:29 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

09:27:02 Karen Schott, Broadview

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a04\)](#)**

09:28:30 Don Jones, Yellowstone County commissioner

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a05\)](#)**

09:30:20 Joan Kresich, Livingston

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a06\)](#)**

09:32:10 Sean Slanger, NaturEner

09:34:32 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance

09:35:46 Sen. Hoven entered the hearing.

09:36:55 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group

09:38:10 Makenna Sellers, Northern Plains Resource Council

09:39:00 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association

09:39:56 John Ostlund, Yellowstone County commissioner

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a07\)](#)**

09:40:49 Derrel Grant, Beaver Creek Wind Farms

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a08\)](#)**

09:43:22 Roy O'Connor, Missoula

**[EXHIBIT\(tas09a09\)](#)**

09:44:36 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a10\)](#)

09:45:43 Anne Hedges, MEIC

09:46:15 John Forkin, Montana State Building and Construction Trade Council

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a11\)](#)

09:47:18 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources Group

09:48:32 Michael Uda, Helena

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a12\)](#)

Additional testimony received:

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a13\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

09:49:11 Doug Roehm, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:49:52 Sen. Molnar

09:53:18 Mr. Slinger, NaturEner

09:53:58 Sen. O'Brien

09:55:11 Mr. Roehm, DOR

09:56:25 Sen. Ankney

09:57:23 Chair Hertz

09:57:35 Sen. O'Brien

09:58:57 Chair Hertz

09:59:05 Ms. Hedges, MEIC

09:59:19 Sen. O'Brien

09:59:48 Ms. Hedges

10:01:02 Sen. Tempel

10:02:01 Mr. Roehm

10:02:39 Sen. Molnar

10:03:36 Mr. Roehm

10:04:04 Sen. Molnar

10:11:47 Mr. Klein, Broad Reach Power

10:12:04 Sen. Molnar

10:12:41 Chair Hertz

10:18:03 Mr. Melin, NextEra

10:18:59 Sen. McClafferty

10:19:23 Mr. Melin

10:19:49 Sen. Vance left the hearing.

10:20:58 Sen. Molnar

10:25:22 Mr. Melin

10:25:30 Sen. Molnar

10:25:37 Sen. Pomnichowski

10:26:42 Sen. Ankney

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:28:18 Sen. Ankney  
10:30:24 Chair Hertz  
10:30:51 Recess  
10:37:25 Reconvened  
10:37:43 Sen. Hoven assumed the role of the Chair.

**HEARING ON SB 73****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:38:03 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB73, Provide for local distribution of lodging sales tax revenue.

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a14\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

10:51:24 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors  
10:52:44 Raye Newmeyer, self  
10:53:54 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a15\)](#)

10:55:03 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a16\)](#)

10:56:42 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a17\)](#)

10:59:25 Mike Boyett, City of Billings

Additional testimony received:

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a18\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

11:01:49 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a19\)](#)

11:03:21 Erik Burke, Montana Federation of Public Employees

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a20\)](#)

11:05:29 SJ Howell, Montana Women Vote

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a21\)](#)

11:06:49 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a22\)](#)

11:07:26 Shawn Reagor, Montana Human Rights Network

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a23\)](#)

11:08:06 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center  
[EXHIBIT\(tas09a24\)](#)

Additional testimony received:

[EXHIBIT\(tas09a25\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

11:09:03 Molly Kruckenberg, Montana Historical Society  
11:09:29 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

11:09:55 Sen. Molnar  
11:10:20 Sen. Regier  
11:11:00 Sen. Pomnichowski  
11:14:10 Ms. Bender, MBPC  
11:14:30 Sen. Sales  
11:15:02 Sen. Regier  
11:16:17 Sen. Sales  
11:16:45 Sen. Molnar  
11:18:49 Sen. Regier  
11:19:13 Sen. Molnar

**Closing by Sponsor:**

11:19:22 Sen. Regier  
  
11:20:24 Chair Hoven

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 6**

11:21:05 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Hertz moved that **SB 6 DO PASS**. Motion carried 10-1 by voice vote with Sen. Vance voting no. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Cohenour and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 30**

11:22:02 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Hertz moved that **SB 30 DO PASS**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Cohenour and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

11:23:00 Chair Hoven

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:24 P.M.

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Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

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**EXHIBIT**([tas09aad.pdf](#))