

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Brian Hoven, on January 19, 2021 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Brian Hoven, Chair (R)
Sen. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Greg Hertz, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Walt Sales (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Present by Video Zoom Conference:

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

Members Excused:

Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Gordon Vance (R)

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 51, 1/12/2021
Executive Action: SB 11, Do Pass, SB 41, Do Pass, SB 45, Do Pass

HEARING ON SB 51**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:07:46 Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R), SD 43, opened the hearing on SB51, Exempting certain fiber optic, coaxial cable from property taxation.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:11:27 Geoff Feiss, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)
[EXHIBIT\(tas12a01\)](#)

09:16:55 Kurt Alme, budget director, Governor's Office
09:18:28 Mark Baker, Charter Communications
09:20:12 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce
09:22:08 Shane Scanlon, AT&T
09:23:07 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(tas12a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

09:25:34 Rose Bender, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)
[EXHIBIT\(tas12a03\)](#)

09:29:02 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
09:37:28 Kev Hamm, Treasure State Internet & Telegraph
[EXHIBIT\(tas12a04\)](#)

09:44:15 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MLCT)
[EXHIBIT\(tas12a05\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

09:48:44 Doug Roehm, Department of Revenue (DOR)
[EXHIBIT\(tas12a06\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:49:11 Sen. Cohenour
09:52:02 Mr. Roehm, DOR
09:52:14 Sen. Cohenour
09:52:56 Mr. Burton, MLCT
09:53:42 Sen. Tempel
09:54:07 Mr. Roehm
09:54:48 Sen. Molnar
10:01:18 Mr. Feiss, MTA
10:01:49 Sen. O'Brien
10:02:39 Mr. Burton
10:05:21 Sen. McClafferty
10:06:34 Ms. Bender, MBPC
10:06:58 Sen. Sales
10:07:24 Sen. Ellsworth
10:10:43 Sen. Cohenour

10:11:09 Mr. Hamm, Treasure State Internet & Telegraph
10:15:39 Sen. Cohenour
10:16:36 Sen. Ellsworth
10:19:01 Sen. Pomnichowski
10:20:10 Mr. Burton
10:22:05 Sen. Hertz
10:24:25 Mr. Feiss
10:24:47 Sen. Sales
10:25:15 Sen. Ellsworth
10:26:14 Chair Hoven
10:29:53 Mr. Feiss
10:31:15 Sen. Hertz
10:32:29 Mr. Feiss
10:32:48 Chair Hoven
10:33:12 Sen. Ellsworth

Closing by Sponsor:

10:34:53 Sen. Ellsworth

10:37:19 Chair Hoven

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 11

10:38:52 **Motion:** Sen. Cohenour moved that **SB 11 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

10:39:03 Sen. Hertz
10:45:05 Sen. Cohenour
10:46:55 Sen. Hertz
10:47:23 Chair Hoven

10:48:33 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Hertz, Sen. Molnar, Sen. Sales and Sen. Vance voting no. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 41

10:49:38 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Hertz moved that **SB 41 DO PASS.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 45

10:50:38 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Hertz moved that **SB 45 DO PASS.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Blasdel and Sen. Vance voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:51 A.M.

Charlene Devine, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

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EXHIBIT([tas12aad.pdf](#))