

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang, on February 4, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 335 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary  
Jason Mohr, Legislative Branch  
Cole Monte, 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: SR 55, 2/2/2021

Executive Action: SB 98, SB 106, SR 55

15:01:51 Sen. Bogner assumed the duties of the chair.

**HEARING ON SR 55**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:02:09 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SR55, Confirm Governor's appointee for Director of Dept. of Agriculture.

**EXHIBIT(ags24a01)**

15:02:59 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras

15:04:17 Mike Foster, appointee

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:11:37 John Youngberg, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:12:33 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

15:13:05 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agriculture Business Association; Montana Grain Elevators Association; Montana Milk Producers Association; Association of Gallatin Agriculture Irrigators

15:14:03 Alison Vergeront, Montana Grain Growers Association

15:15:24 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union

15:16:37 Charles Robison, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

15:19:06 Christy Clark, deputy director, Department of Agriculture

15:20:22 Jay Bodner; Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana CattleWomen

15:22:27 Nicole Rolf, MFBF

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:24:37 Sen. Gillespie

15:25:00 Sen. Hoven

15:25:48 Mr. Foster, appointee

15:27:13 Sen. Webber

15:28:04 Mr. Foster

15:30:08 Sen. Webber

15:30:38 Mr. Foster

15:33:06 Sen. Webber

15:33:25 Sen. O'Brien

15:33:58 Mr. Foster

15:36:41 Sen. Ellis

15:37:40 Mr. Foster

15:40:41 Sen. Salomon

15:41:18 Mr. Foster

15:41:28 Sen. Sales

15:42:06 Mr. Foster

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:42:39 Sen. Lang

15:43:58 Sen. Lang assumed the duties of the chair.

15:44:18 Chair Lang

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 98**

15:44:30 **Motion:** Sen. Gillespie moved that **SB 98 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.**

**Discussion:**

15:45:03 Chair Lang

15:45:13 Sen. Gillespie

15:50:33 Chair Lang

15:51:33 **Vote:** Motion carried 6-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. O'Brien and Sen. Webber voting no. Sen. Boldman and Sen. Osmundson were excused.

15:52:15 Chair Lang

15:52:25 **Motion:** Sen. Bogner moved that **SB 98 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

15:52:41 Sen. Salomon

15:54:46 Sen. Hoven

15:55:30 Sen. Ellis

15:58:14 Sen. Webber

15:59:29 Chair Lang

16:00:38 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-4 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Ellis, Sen. O'Brien and Sen. Webber voting no. Sen. Boldman and Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 106**

16:01:47 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Sales moved that **SB 106 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.** Motion carried 6-3 by roll call vote with Sen. Hoven, Sen. O'Brien and Sen. Webber voting no. Sen. Boldman and Sen. Osmundson were excused.

**Discussion:**

16:03:00 Chair Lang

16:03:05 **Motion:** Sen. Bogner moved that **SB 106 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**

16:03:50 Sen. Sales

16:04:27 Chair Lang

16:04:42 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Sales moved that **SB 106 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried 9-0 by voice vote. Sen. Boldman and Sen. Osmundson were excused.

**EXHIBIT(ags24a02)**

**Discussion:**

16:05:52 Sen. Sales  
16:07:00 Sen. Hoven  
16:08:20 Sen. Sales  
16:08:55 Sen. Hoven  
16:09:28 Sen. Sales  
16:10:34 Sen. Hoven  
16:10:50 Sen. Sales  
16:12:02 Chair Lang  
16:13:45 Sen. Webber  
16:14:41 Sen. Sales  
16:15:34 Sen. Ellis

16:16:02 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Bogner moved that **SB 106 DO PASS AS AMENDED.**  
Motion carried 10-1 by roll call vote with Sen. Hoven voting no. Sen. Boldman  
and Sen. Osmundson voted by proxy.

16:16:57 Chair Lang

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 55**

16:17:09 **Motion:** Sen. Bogner moved that **SR 55 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

16:17:35 Sen. Hoven  
16:18:12 Sen. Sales

16:19:15 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. Sen. Boldman and Sen.  
Osmundson voted by proxy.

16:20:03 Chair Lang

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:20 P.M.

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT([ags24aad.pdf](#))**