

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Vice Chair Jason D. Small, on February 4, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present in the Committee Room:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:

Sen. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary
Trevor Graff, Legislative Branch
Jacquie Simmons, 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 34, 2/3/2021; SR 35, 2/1/2021; SR 36, 2/1/2021; SR 37, 2/1/2021
Executive Action: SR 34, SR 35, SR 36, SR 37

15:01:57 Sen. Cuffe entered the meeting.

HEARING ON SR 34

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:02:12 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SR34, Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Hard Rock Mining Impact.

[EXHIBIT\(ens24a01\)](#)

15:02:19 Sen. Morigeau entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:04:21 Liane Taylor, board appointments advisor, Governor's office

[EXHIBIT\(ens24a02\)](#)

15:05:38 Jerry Bennett, Governor's appointee

15:06:50 Ray Sheldon, Governor's appointee

15:08:19 Clint Rech, Governor's appointee

15:09:18 Tammy Johnson, executive director, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:10:37 Cary Hegreberg, president and CEO, Montana Bankers Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:12:12 Sen. Molnar

15:12:30 Ms. Taylor, Governor's office

15:13:31 Ms. Johnson, MMA

15:15:08 Sen. Molnar

Closing by Sponsor:

15:15:32 Sen. Ankney

HEARING ON SR 35

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:16:29 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SR35, Confirm Governor's appointees to the Coal Board.

[EXHIBIT\(ens24a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:18:16 Liane Taylor, board appointments advisor, Governor's office

15:20:06 Pat Lorello, Governor's appointee

15:20:50 Hal Fuglevand, Governor's appointee

15:21:56 Catherine Laughner, Governor's appointee

15:22:22 Jon Wells, Governor's appointee

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:23:29 Sen. Molnar
 15:24:33 Mr. Wells, appointee
 15:25:55 Sen. Molnar

Closing by Sponsor:

15:26:28 Sen. Ankney

HEARING ON SR 36

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:28:23 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SR36, Confirm Governor appointees to Pacific NW Electric Power & Conservation Planning.

EXHIBIT(ens24a04)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:29:26 Liane Taylor, board appointments advisor, Governor's office
 15:31:17 Doug Grob, Governor's appointee
 15:32:43 Mike Milburn, Governor's appointee
 15:34:06 Gary Wiens, CEO, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

 15:36:24 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.

 15:36:33 Alan Olson, former chairman, Senate Energy and Telecommunications Committee
 15:38:51 Joe Lukas, general manager, Western Montana Electric Generating & Transmission Cooperative

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:40:38 Sen. Sweeney
 15:43:14 Mr. Milburn, appointee
 15:43:48 Sen. Regier

 15:45:12 Sen. Gauthier entered the meeting.

 15:48:36 Mr. Grob, appointee
 15:49:47 Sen. Molnar
 15:54:51 Mr. Milburn
 15:55:27 Sen. Molnar
 15:55:39 Sen. Pope
 15:57:46 Mr. Grob
 16:00:32 Sen. Pope
 16:00:54 Sen. Gauthier
 16:01:49 Mr. Grob

16:02:48 Sen. Gauthier

Closing by Sponsor:

16:03:19 Sen. Ankney

HEARING ON SR 37

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:04:56 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SR37, Confirm Governor appointees to Boards of Oil and Gas Conservation.

EXHIBIT(ens24a05)

Proponents' Testimony:

16:06:26 Liane Taylor, board appointments advisor, Governor's office

16:09:10 Jeff Wivholm, Governor's appointee

16:10:43 Mac McDermott, Governor's appointee

EXHIBIT(ens24a06)

16:11:53 Sen. Tom McGillvray, SD 23

16:12:42 Sen. Cuffe left the meeting.

16:12:52 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association

Additional Testimony Received:

EXHIBIT(ens24a07)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:16:45 Sen. Tempel

16:17:50 Mr. McDermott, appointee

16:18:16 Sen. Pope

16:19:05 Mr. McDermott

16:19:59 Sen. Pope

Closing by Sponsor:

16:20:26 Sen. Ankney

16:22:05 Chair Small gave the duties of the chair to Sen. Ankney.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 34

16:22:18 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 34 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 35

16:22:50 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 35 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 36

16:23:10 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 36 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 37

16:23:43 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 37 BE ADOPTED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Cuffe and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:25 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

ld

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens24aad.pdf](#))