

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Jason D. Small, on February 8, 2021 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)  
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Lauren de Paepe, Committee Secretary  
Jason Mohr, 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 51, 2/3/2021; SR 52, 2/3/2021; SR 53, 2/3/2021  
Executive Action: SR 52, SR 53

15:03:31 Recess  
15:42:42 Sen. Welborn entered the meeting.  
15:43:26 Reconvene

**HEARING ON SR 53**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:43:44 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR53, Confirm Governor's appointee for Director of Dept. of Nat Resources & Conserv.

**EXHIBIT(nas26a01)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:44:22 Lieutenant Governor Kristen Juras  
15:46:24 Amanda Kaster, Governor's appointee  
15:55:24 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association  
15:57:21 Bud Clinch, former director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
15:59:42 Dave Galt

**EXHIBIT(nas26a02)**

16:00:23 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
16:02:42 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Water Rights Coalition; Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators  
16:03:32 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana; Montana Association of Oil, Gas, & Coal Counties  
16:05:20 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association  
16:06:04 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited; Trout Unlimited  
16:07:09 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana CattleWomen  
16:08:31 Mark Taylor, Idaho Forest Group  
16:09:40 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association  
16:12:14 Jim Simpson, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

**EXHIBIT(nas26a03)**

16:12:51 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

**EXHIBIT(nas26a04)**

16:14:49 Brian Steed, former deputy director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management  
16:16:10 Ryan Zinke, former Secretary of the Interior  
16:18:48 Jocelyn Cahill

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(nas26a05)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:20:26 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:21:38 Ms. Kaster, appointee  
 16:22:35 Sen. Gillespie  
 16:23:24 Ms. Kaster  
 16:24:14 Sen. Lang  
 16:25:37 Ms. Kaster  
 16:26:13 Sen. Hoven  
 16:26:36 Ms. Kaster  
 16:27:12 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:34:52 Ms. Kaster  
 16:37:33 Sen. Flowers  
 16:41:30 Ms. Kaster  
 16:43:34 Sen. Flowers  
 16:44:06 Sen. Ankney

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:45:52 Sen. Welborn

**HEARING ON SR 51**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:48:38 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR51, Confirm appointee to Board of Environmental Review.

[EXHIBIT\(nas26a06\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:49:45 Jeremiah Lynch, Governor's appointee

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:52:22 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:59:14 Mr. Lynch, appointee  
 16:59:50 Sen. Lynch  
 17:00:07 Mr. Lynch  
 17:00:12 Sen. Hoven  
 17:00:25 Mr. Lynch  
 17:01:57 Sen. Flowers  
 17:02:57 Sen. Welborn  
 17:04:33 Mr. Lynch  
 17:07:10 Sen. Lang  
 17:07:20 Chair Small  
 17:07:56 Sen. Cohenour  
 17:08:53 Mr. Lynch  
 17:09:23 Sen. Brown  
 17:09:41 Chair Small  
 17:09:47 Sen. Hoven

17:10:15 Mr. Lynch

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:11:23 Sen. Welborn  
 17:11:52 Chair Small  
 17:12:10 Mr. Lynch  
 17:12:27 Chair Small

**HEARING ON SR 52**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

17:13:08 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR52, Confirm Governor's appointee to Board of Water Well Contractors.

**EXHIBIT(nas26a07)**

**Proponents' Testimony:**

17:14:29 Ronda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association  
 17:16:06 Art Robinson, program manager, Montana Board of Water Well Contractors  
 17:19:15 Steve Story, chief, Water Operations Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; member, Board of Water Well Contractors

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:** None

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:21:11 Sen. Welborn  
 17:21:57 Chair Small gave the duties of the chair to Sen. Welborn.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 52**

17:24:13 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 52 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

17:24:35 Sen. Brown  
 17:24:53 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 53**

17:25:00 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SR 53 BE ADOPTED.**

**Discussion:**

17:25:27 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 17:28:44 Sen. Flowers  
 17:30:02 Sen. Gillespie  
 17:30:37 Sen. Ankney

17:31:50 Sen. Lang

17:33:19 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-1 by roll call vote with Sen. Pomnichowski voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:34 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas26aad.pdf](#))