

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on February 10, 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 58, 2/5/2021; SB 29, 2/4/2021

15:04:50 Chair Welborn gave the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Small.

HEARING ON SR 58

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:05:08 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R), SD 36, opened the hearing on SR58, Confirm Governor's appointees for Board of Environmental Review.

EXHIBIT(nas28a01)

Proponents' Testimony:

15:06:14 Liane Taylor, boards and appointments advisor, Governor's Office
 15:07:21 Jon Reiten, Governor's appointee; Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology
 15:12:04 Dave Simpson, Governor's appointee
 15:14:10 Joseph Smith, Governor's appointee
 15:15:54 Steve Ruffato, Governor's appointee
 15:17:15 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association
 15:19:45 Dave Galt, citizen
 15:20:25 Mark Hayden, manager, Missoula Electric Cooperative
 15:22:42 Gary Wiens, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
 15:23:14 Molly Schwend, Montana Coal Council
 15:23:55 Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley Fleck Law Firm, representing herself

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:26:38 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:27:03 Mr. Ruffato, appointee
 15:27:23 Sen. Pomnichowski
 15:27:45 Mr. Smith, appointee
 15:27:52 Mr. Simpson, appointee
 15:28:26 Sen. Cohenour
 15:29:25 Mr. Smith
 15:30:17 Mr. Simpson
 15:31:06 Mr. Reiten, appointee
 15:31:49 Mr. Ruffato
 15:32:31 Sen. Lang
 15:32:59 Mr. Reiten

Closing by Sponsor:

15:33:21 Sen. Welborn
 15:34:19 Chair Small gave the duties of the chair to Sen. Welborn.
 15:34:27 Chair Welborn

HEARING ON SB 29**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:35:29 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB29, Revise weather modification and control laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:37:48 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI)
[EXHIBIT\(nas28a02\)](#)

15:45:31 Jim Hagenbarth, citizen
[EXHIBIT\(nas28a03\)](#)

15:50:38 Doug Braaksma, farmer; board of directors, AGAI
15:53:28 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association
15:56:24 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
15:57:37 Mark Taylor, Lone Mountain Land Company
15:58:34 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
[EXHIBIT\(nas28a04\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(nas28a05\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony:

15:59:51 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Informational Testimony:

16:01:23 Dr. John Kenning, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
16:01:49 Paul Azevedo, bureau chief, Water Management Bureau, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
16:02:25 Derek Blestrud, senior atmospheric scientist, Idaho Power Company
[EXHIBIT\(nas28a06\)](#)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:02:52 Sen. Hoven
16:04:40 Ms. Evans, AGAI
16:05:17 Sen. Brown
16:09:00 Ms. Evans
16:09:21 Sen. Hoven
16:10:12 Mr. Kenning, DEQ
16:10:42 Sen. Hoven
16:12:02 Mr. Azevedo, DNRC
16:13:43 Sen. Flowers
16:14:15 Ms. Cone, MFBF
16:15:00 Sen. Flowers
16:17:04 Mr. Azevedo
16:17:16 Sen. Cohenour
16:20:58 Mr. Blestrud, Idaho Power Company
16:21:39 Sen. Pomnichowski
16:22:23 Mr. Azevedo

16:23:11 Mr. Blestrud
16:24:05 Sen. Pomnichowski
16:29:14 Mr. Blestrud
16:31:18 Sen. Pomnichowski
16:32:22 Mr. Azevedo
16:33:53 Chair Welborn
16:41:51 Mr. Hagenbarth

Closing by Sponsor:

16:43:14 Sen. Gillespie

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:47 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas28aad.pdf](#))