

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

**Call to Order:** Chair Ryan Osmundson, on February 23, 2021 at 9:01 A.M., in Room 317 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Ryan Osmundson, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)  
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)  
Sen. Cary Smith (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. David Howard (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary  
Julie Johnson, Legislative Branch  
Katherine Johnson, Remote Meeting Coordinator  
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

**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 29, 2/18/2021; SB 175, 2/18/2021; SB 249, 2/18/2021; SB 192, 2/18/2021

09:01:15 Chair Osmundson  
09:02:57 Sen. Kary joined the meeting.

**HEARING ON SB 29**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:03:10 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB29, Revise weather modification and control laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:07:29 Jim Hagenbarth, citizen  
09:09:00 Sen. Kary  
09:09:01 Chair Osmundson  
09:09:16 Mr. Hagenbarth, citizen  
09:12:05 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators  
09:12:55 Sen. Jill Cohenour, SD 42  
09:13:38 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

**Additional Testimony Received:**

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a01\)](#)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:14:47 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
09:15:28 Jena Nash Reno, Bozeman

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a02\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:**

09:19:07 Paul Azevedo, Water Resources Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

09:19:43 Lisa Hjelmstad, Billings

[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a03\)](#)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:23:20 Sen. Lang  
09:23:40 Mr. Azevedo, DNRC  
09:23:48 Sen. Lang  
09:24:03 Mr. Azevedo  
  
09:24:37 Sen. Wellborn joined the meeting.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:25:39 Sen. Gillespie

**HEARING ON SB 175**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:28:09 Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R), SD 22, opened the hearing on SB175, Generally revise contributions to the judges' retirement system.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:30:29 Ryan Evans, Office of Budget and Program Planning

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

09:30:50 Dore Schwinden, executive director, Montana Public Employees Retirement Administration

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

**Closing by Sponsor:**

09:31:25 Sen. Kary

**HEARING ON SB 249**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:31:52 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB249, Revise funding for the Montana greater sage-grouse stewardship act.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

09:33:08 Michael Freeman, natural resources policy advisor, Office of the Governor

09:34:07 Quentin Kujala, chief of staff, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

**[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a04\)](#)**

09:39:22 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association

09:40:56 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

09:41:36 Shelby Demars, United Property Owners of Montana, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

09:42:32 Molly Schwend, executive director, Montana Coal Council

09:43:14 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

09:44:15 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts

09:45:23 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

09:46:24 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

**[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a05\)](#)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(fcs38a06\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

09:48:47 Sen. Glimm  
09:49:00 Mr. Kujala, FWP  
09:49:50 Sen. Glimm  
09:50:00 Mr. Kujala  
09:50:22 Dustin Temple, deputy director, FWP  
09:50:59 Sen. Glimm  
09:51:55 Mr. Temple  
09:53:29 Sen. Glimm  
09:53:47 Mr. Temple  
09:54:02 Chair Osmundson  
09:54:08 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)  
09:54:50 Sen. Ellis  
09:56:38 Mr. Temple  
09:57:27 Sen. Ellis  
09:58:24 Mr. Temple  
09:58:55 Sen. Welborn  
10:00:54 Mr. Kujala  
  
10:01:19 Sen. Ankney joined the meeting.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:01:27 Sen. Lang  
  
10:03:02 Sen. Cuffe assumed the chair.

**HEARING ON SB 192****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:03:24 Sen. Ryan Osmundson (R), SD 15, opened the hearing on SB192, Providing for transfers and budgetary matters.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

10:04:54 Sen. Ellis  
10:05:49 Sen. Osmundson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

10:06:38 Sen. Osmundson  
  
10:06:48 Sen. Osmundson assumed the chair.  
10:07:00 Chair Osmundson

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:08 A.M.

---

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

pg

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([fcs38aad.pdf](#))