

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on March 12, 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  
Heather Vande-Sandt, 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: HB 131, 3/9/2021; HB 173, 3/9/2021; HB 554, 3/9/2021

**HEARING ON HB 173**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:00:09 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB173, Revise laws regarding state timber sales.

15:01:51 Chair Welborn

15:02:05 Rep. Loge

15:02:13 Chair Welborn

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:02:48 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

15:03:24 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

15:04:24 Matt Arno, Forestry Assistance Bureau chief, Forestry Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**EXHIBIT(nas50a01)**

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**EXHIBIT(nas50a02)**

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

15:09:38 Roger Ziesak, Forest Practices Program manager, DNRC

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:10:00 Sen. Hoven

15:11:38 Mr. Ziesak, DNRC

15:12:16 Sen. Flowers

15:13:17 Mr. Arno, DNRC

15:13:31 Sen. Ankney

15:13:57 Rep. Loge

15:15:12 Sen. Gillespie

15:15:42 Rep. Loge

15:16:09 Sen. Gillespie

15:16:32 Mr. Arno

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:16:55 Rep. Loge

**HEARING ON HB 131**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:17:53 Rep. David Bedey (R), HD 86, opened the hearing on HB131, Generally revise state cabin leasing laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:20:09 Del Reynolds, cabin owner, Painted Rocks Reservoir

15:24:17 Roylene Gaul, cabin owner, Painted Rocks Reservoir  
[EXHIBIT\(nas50a03\)](#)

15:28:21 Sen. Brown entered the room.

15:28:24 Bonnie Conner, cabin owner, Painted Rocks Reservoir  
[EXHIBIT\(nas50a04\)](#)

Additional Testimony Received:  
[EXHIBIT\(nas50a05\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

15:33:28 Brian Holling, State Water Projects Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:33:45 Sen. Cohenour  
15:36:12 Mr. Holling, DNRC  
15:36:39 Sen. Ankney  
15:37:04 Sen. Brown  
15:38:20 Mr. Holling  
15:38:36 Rep. Bedey  
15:39:31 Sen. Brown  
15:42:11 Mr. Holling  
15:43:02 Sen. Hoven  
15:43:40 Mr. Holling  
15:44:00 Sen. Brown  
15:44:43 Rep. Bedey  
15:45:52 Chair Welborn  
15:46:12 Sen. Gillespie  
15:46:33 Mr. Reynolds, cabin owner

Closing by Sponsor:

15:48:43 Rep. Bedey

HEARING ON HB 554

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:51:27 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB554, Require legislative approval of national heritage areas, historic trails.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:52:28 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA), Montana CattleWomen, Montana Association of State Grazing Districts

[EXHIBIT\(nas50a06\)](#)

15:54:38 Dana Darlington, director, North Central MSGA

- 15:57:55 Jess Bandel, president, Choteau County Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)
- 16:00:14 Ross Butcher, Fergus County commissioner; chair, Montana Natural Resource Coalition
- 16:01:35 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.
- 16:02:31 Shawn Fladager, citizen, Great Falls
- 16:03:57 Rachel Cone, MFBF
- 16:04:26 Mitch Konen, president, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)
- [EXHIBIT\(nas50a07\)](#)**
- 16:06:05 Ronda Wiggers, Great Falls Homebuilders Association
- 16:07:32 Franck Groeneweg, District 8 director, MGGA; Living Sky Grains
- 16:08:59 Krista Lee Evans, Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI); Montana Grain Elevator Association (MGEA)
- 16:10:05 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association
- 16:11:48 Charles Denowh, United Property Owners of Montana
- 16:12:15 Roger Hagan, citizen, Cascade County
- 16:13:11 Leah Johnson, executive secretary, Montana Wool Growers Association
- 16:14:57 Rae Grulkowski, citizen, Stockett

**[EXHIBIT\(nas50a08\)](#)**

- 16:19:23 Miles Hutton, Blaine County commissioner, Turner

**[EXHIBIT\(nas50a09\)](#)**

Additional Testimony Received:

**[EXHIBIT\(nas50a10\)](#)**

**Opponents' Testimony:**

- 16:20:59 Greg Jergeson, former state senator, Chinook
- 16:23:11 Chair Welborn gave the duties of the chair to Sen. Jacobson and left the meeting.
- 16:28:17 Tom Towe, former state senator, Billings
- [EXHIBIT\(nas50a11\)](#)**
- 16:29:33 Sen. Small entered the meeting.
- 16:30:18 Sen. Welborn entered the meeting and resumed the duties of the chair.
- 16:32:42 Steve Simonson, Billings
- [EXHIBIT\(nas50a12\)](#)**
- 16:35:10 Chair Welborn

Additional Testimony Received:

**[EXHIBIT\(nas50a13\)](#)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:36:26 Sen. Gillespie  
16:37:04 Mr. Butcher, Fergus County  
16:39:29 Sen. Hoven  
16:40:07 Rep. Kassmier  
16:40:51 Sen. Flowers  
16:45:26 Rep. Kassmier  
16:45:52 Sen. Lang  
16:47:01 Mr. Butcher  
16:51:02 Sen. Cohenour

**EXHIBIT(nas50a14)**

16:52:52 Rep. Kassmier  
16:53:28 Sen. Gillespie  
16:54:23 Ms. Evans, AGAI; MGEA  
16:56:00 Sen. Brown  
16:56:39 Ms. Evans

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:57:26 Rep. Kassmier

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:58 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas50aad.pdf](#))