

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Call to Order:** Chair Duane Ankney, on March 16, 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. Shane A. Morigeau (D)  
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. 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: HB 448, 3/11/2021; HB 50, 3/11/2021

15:03:41 Recess  
 15:03:23 Sen. Pope entered the meeting.  
 15:08:02 Sen. Morigeau entered the meeting.  
 15:09:20 Reconvene  
 15:09:40 Sen. McNally entered the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 448**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:09:48 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB448, Increasing the cap on non-residential net metering systems.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:10:42 Andrew Valainis, executive director, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

**EXHIBIT(ens52a01)**

15:17:05 Dan Perata, regional and special projects manager, Independent Power Systems (IPS)

15:20:04 Sherrie Arey, executive director, NeighborWorks Great Falls

15:20:10 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.

15:22:39 Kyle MacVean, co-owner, Harvest Solar

15:25:48 Rebecca Ritter, owner, Spark R&D

**EXHIBIT(ens52a02)**

15:29:15 John Finn, director, Lewis and Clark Library

**EXHIBIT(ens52a03)**

15:31:09 Sam Spector, head custodian, facility director, Sweetgrass County High School

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:35:59 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

15:39:54 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

15:44:52 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) 44

15:47:03 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations

15:47:50 Luke Hoffer, IBEW 233

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:48:34 Sen. Regier

15:49:12 Mr. Hoffman, NWE

15:49:33 Sen. Regier

15:50:15 Mr. Valainis, MREA

15:51:12 Sen. Regier  
 15:51:28 Rep. Kassmier  
 15:51:54 Sen. Cuffe  
 15:55:44 Mr. Finn, Lewis and Clark Library  
 15:55:54 Sen. Regier  
 15:56:59 Mr. Finn  
 15:57:28 Sen. Molnar  
 15:58:49 Mr. Hoffman  
 15:59:40 Sen. McNally  
 16:03:10 Mr. Valainis  
 16:04:24 Sen. Regier  
 16:05:48 Mr. Valainis  
 16:06:08 Sen. Tempel  
 16:07:32 Mr. Valainis  
 16:08:35 Sen. Pope  
 16:09:29 Mr. Perata, IPS  
 16:12:16 Sen. Pope  
 16:13:59 Mr. MacVean, Harvest Solar  
 16:14:57 Sen. Pope  
 16:19:43 Mr. Hoffman  
 16:20:19 Sen. Pope

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:20:50 Rep. Kassmier

**HEARING ON HB 50**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

16:21:42 Rep. Frank Garner (R), HD 7, opened the hearing on HB50, Redistribute 9-1-1 funding to state library.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

16:26:07 Jennie Stapp, state librarian, Montana State Library (MSL)  
 16:37:12 Geoff Feiss, general manager, Montana Telecommunications Association (MTA)  
 16:38:57 Nanette Gilbertson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:**

16:41:24 April Grady, chief financial officer, Information Technology Services Division,  
 Department of Administration  
 16:41:57 Evan Hammer, digital library administrator, MSL

**Additional Testimony Received:**

**[EXHIBIT\(ens52a04\)](#)**

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

16:42:36 Sen. Regier  
 16:45:54 Ms. Stapp, MSL  
 16:46:01 Sen. Regier

16:46:14 Mr. Feiss, MTA  
16:46:43 Sen. Tempel  
16:47:18 Ms. Stapp  
16:47:52 Sen. Kary  
16:52:57 Mr. Feiss  
16:53:24 Sen. Kary  
16:55:33 Ms. Gilbertson, MSPOA  
16:56:20 Sen. Kary  
16:57:01 Rep. Garner  
17:00:03 Sen. McNally  
17:01:49 Rep. Garner  
17:02:35 Sen. Tempel  
17:02:58 Sen. McNally

**Closing by Sponsor:**

17:03:12 Rep. Garner

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 5:04 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ens52aad.pdf](#))