

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Chair Jeffrey W. Welborn, on March 17, 2021 at 3:15 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present in the Committee Room:**

Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Pat Flowers, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Jason D. Small, Vice Chair (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)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**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: HB 498, 3/9/2021  
Executive Action: HB 131 - Be Concurred in; HB 152 - Be Concurred in; HB 594 - Be Concurred in; HJ 15 - Be Concurred in; SB 153 - Do Pass as Amended

**HEARING ON HB 498**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:16:11 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB498, Clarify jurisdiction of board of oil and gas conservation.

15:17:50 Sen. Lang entered the meeting.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:19:45 Alan Olson, executive director, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

**EXHIBIT(nas53a01)**

15:24:16 Jason Rittal, deputy director, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:25:52 Kirk Panasuk, citizen, Bainville

**EXHIBIT(nas53a02)**

15:28:28 Suzanne Beug, citizen, Carbon County

15:30:18 Patricia Whitford, citizen, Richland County

15:32:25 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

15:34:51 Cindy Webber, citizen, Big Timber

15:36:40 Edward Barta, citizen, Billings

15:37:45 Hal Schmid, citizen, Arlee

**EXHIBIT(nas53a03)**

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:39:30 Sen. Brown

15:39:53 Rep. Gunderson

15:40:21 Sen. Lang

15:40:33 Rep. Gunderson

15:40:55 Sen. Lang

15:41:01 Chair Welborn

15:41:13 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

15:41:24 Rep. Gunderson

15:41:44 Sen. Brown

15:44:34 Mr. Olson, MPA

15:44:56 Sen. Cohenour

15:49:20 Mr. Olson

15:50:53 Sen. Flowers

15:51:36 Mr. Olson

15:51:59 Sen. Gillespie

15:52:35 Mr. Olson

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:53:09 Rep. Gunderson

**Committee Business:**

15:43:59 Chair Welborn  
 15:55:40 Mr. Mohr, LSD  
 15:56:30 Chair Welborn  
 15:57:26 Sen. Flowers  
 15:57:43 Chair Welborn  
 15:57:50 Sen. Lang  
 15:57:58 Chair Welborn  
 15:58:06 Mr. Mohr  
 15:58:15 Chair Welborn

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 131**

16:00:10 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Flowers moved that **HB 131 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Hoven and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Brown will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 152**

16:01:20 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 152 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Hoven and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Jacobson will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 594**

16:02:17 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 594 BE CONCURRED IN**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Hoven and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Gillespie will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 153**

16:03:22 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 153 DO PASS**.

16:03:52 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 153 BE AMENDED**.  
[EXHIBIT\(nas53a04\)](#)

**Discussion:**

16:04:15 Chair Welborn  
 16:05:19 Jason Mohr, Legislative Services Division (LSD)  
 16:06:15 Chair Welborn  
 16:06:48 Sen. Brown  
 16:07:13 Chair Welborn  
 16:07:21 Mr. Mohr, LSD  
 16:07:55 Sen. Brown  
 16:10:05 Chair Welborn  
 16:10:21 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:10:31 Chair Welborn  
 16:10:44 Mr. Mohr  
 16:11:06 Chair Welborn  
 16:12:20 Sen. Brown

16:12:52 Chair Welborn  
 16:12:55 Mr. Mohr  
 16:13:25 Chair Welborn  
 16:13:33 Sen. Lang  
 16:16:04 Mr. Mohr  
 16:16:35 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:18:22 Chair Welborn  
 16:18:54 Sen. Flowers  
 16:19:20 Mr. Mohr  
 16:20:00 Chair Welborn  
 16:20:40 Mr. Mohr  
 16:20:45 Sen. Flowers  
 16:21:28 Mr. Mohr  
 16:22:14 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:23:50 Sen. Lang  
 16:23:57 Sen. Pomnichowski  
 16:24:07 Mr. Mohr  
 16:24:43 Chair Welborn  
 16:24:48 Sen. Brown  
 16:26:06 Sen. Cohenour  
 16:26:53 Sen. Brown  
  
 16:27:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Hoven and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.  
  
 16:27:25 Sen. Hoven entered the meeting.  
  
 16:27:34 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **SB 153 DO PASS AS AMENDED**. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Ankney and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.  
  
 16:28:00 Chair Welborn  
  
 16:29:02 Sen. Jacobson left the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 15**

16:29:13 **Motion:** Sen. Flowers moved that **HJ 15 BE CONCURRED IN**.

**Discussion:**

16:29:25 Sen. Brown  
 16:29:44 Sen. Hoven  
 16:29:53 Chair Welborn  
 16:30:05 Sen. Hoven  
  
 16:30:11 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-2 by voice vote with Sen. Gillespie and Sen. Lang voting no. Sen. Ankney, Sen. Jacobson and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:31 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas53aad.pdf](#))