

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on March 23, 2021 at 3:25 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. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (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 170, 3/16/2021; HB 576, 3/18/2021
Executive Action: HJ 14; HB 50; HB 494

Committee Business:

15:25:29 Chair Ankney
15:26:02 Sen. Cuffe

HEARING ON HB 170

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:27:36 Rep. Tom Welch (R), HD 72, opened the hearing on HB170, Revise laws to include renewable hydrogen.

EXHIBIT(ens57a01)

15:29:05 Sen. Molnar entered the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:30:35 Michael Ducker, vice president, renewable fuels and western region, Mitsubishi Power

15:37:51 Laura Nelson, Green Hydrogen Coalition

EXHIBIT(ens57a02)

15:39:04 Sen. Small entered the meeting.

15:41:55 JP Gallagher, chief executive, Butte-Silver Bow Consolidated Governments
15:44:20 Joe Willauer, executive director, Butte Local Development Corporation (BLDC)
15:45:38 Kristen Rosa, Butte-Silver Bow City-County
15:46:46 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
15:47:20 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 44
15:47:52 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council
15:48:31 Jackie McBroom, business manager, IBEW Local 233
15:49:04 Jessie Luther, Mitsubishi Power

EXHIBIT(ens57a03)

15:49:49 Matt Vincent, consultant, Mitsubishi Power
15:50:39 Rep. Derek Skees, HD 11

Opponents' Testimony:

15:51:30 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

Informational Testimony:

15:58:10 Rebecca Harbage, public policy director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

EXHIBIT(ens57a04)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:58:44 Sen. Kary
16:00:58 Mr. Ducker, Mitsubishi Power
16:01:35 Sen. Morigeau

15:59:33 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.

16:02:08 Mr. Ducker
 16:03:32 Sen. Gauthier
 16:03:52 Mr. Ducker
 16:05:02 Sen. Regier
 16:05:40 Ms. Nelson, Green Hydrogen Coalition
 16:07:10 Sen. Regier
 16:07:23 Mr. Ducker
 16:08:42 Sen. Regier
 16:08:51 Chair Ankney
 16:09:13 Sen. Regier
 16:09:32 Sen. McNally
 16:11:24 Ms. Harbage, DEQ
 16:12:17 Sen. McNally
 16:12:55 Rep. Welch
 16:14:15 Sen. Sweeney
 16:15:17 Mr. Willauer, BLDC
 16:16:17 Sen. Sweeney
 16:19:07 Mr. Ducker
 16:19:47 Sen. Pope
 16:21:58 Mr. Ducker
 16:23:01 Sen. Molnar
 16:30:23 Mr. Ducker
 16:31:25 Sen. Cuffe
 16:32:24 Mr. Ducker
 16:34:53 Sen. Cuffe
 16:35:29 Chair Ankney
 16:37:08 Rep. Welch
 16:38:37 Chair Ankney

Closing by Sponsor:

16:38:56 Rep. Welch

HEARING ON HB 576

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:42:07 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB576, Repeal the renewable portfolio standard.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:45:31 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy
 16:48:26 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana-Dakota Utilities Resources

EXHIBIT(ens57a05)

16:49:42 Rep. Derek Skees, HD 11

Opponents' Testimony:

16:51:18 Andrew Valainis, executive director, Montana Renewable Energy Association

16:52:29 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group

EXHIBIT(ens57a06)

16:54:23 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters
 16:55:24 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center
 16:56:49 Eliza Donahue, Forward Montana

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(ens57a07\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

16:58:05 Sen. McNally
 16:59:56 Rep. Skees
 17:00:04 Sen. McNally
 17:00:26 Sen. Molnar
 17:01:15 Rep. Schillinger
 17:01:25 Sen. Molnar
 17:01:46 Rep. Skees
 17:02:13 Sen. Molnar

 17:02:54 Sen. Kary left the meeting.

 17:03:46 Rep. Skees

Closing by Sponsor:

17:04:23 Rep. Schillinger

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 50

17:06:59 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 50 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:07:18 Sen. Regier

17:08:03 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-2 by roll call vote with Sen. Kary and Sen. K. Regier voting no. Sen. Kary and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Tempel will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 494

17:09:47 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **HB 494 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:10:00 Sen. Small

17:10:20 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Kary and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Lynch will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 14

- 17:11:10 **Motion:** Sen. Small moved that **HJ 14 BE CONCURRED IN.**
- 17:11:20 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HJ 14 BE AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Kary and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy.
EXHIBIT(ens57a08)
- 17:12:08 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. Small moved that **HJ 14 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Sen. Kary and Sen. Lynch voted by proxy. Sen. Tempel will carry the bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:14 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens57aad.pdf](#))