

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on March 25, 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. Mary McNally, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Terry Gauthier (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Mark Sweeney (D)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Brad Molnar (R)

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 273, 3/15/2021; HB 475, 3/15/2021; SB 86, 3/18/2021

15:02:35 Sen. Kary entered the meeting.

15:03:44 Recess

15:12:03 Reconvene

HEARING ON HB 273

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

15:12:34 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB273, Eliminate restrictions on nuclear facility development.

Proponents' Testimony:

15:13:26 Lori Shaw, NorthWestern Energy

15:14:25 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 44

15:15:40 Jackie McBroom, business manager, IBEW Local 233

15:16:18 Stacey Yates, business manager, IBEW Local 1638

Opponents' Testimony:

15:17:14 Carole Mackin, Helena

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a01\)](#)

15:21:59 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters

15:23:56 Bill Myers, Big Fork

15:28:47 Sen. Lynch entered the meeting.

15:28:51 Mark Mackin, Helena

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a02\)](#)

15:38:25 Gary Matson, Milltown

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a03\)](#)

15:39:57 Madison Hebner, Forward Montana

15:40:55 Mike Males, former director, Nuclear Vote

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a04\)](#)

15:45:25 Jan Strout, Bozeman

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a05\)](#)

15:49:43 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a06\)](#)

15:51:21 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a07\)](#)

Informational Testimony:

15:53:54 Rebecca Harbage, public policy director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

EXHIBIT(ens59a08)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

15:54:46 Sen. Kary
 15:57:41 Mr. Mackin, Helena
 15:58:23 Sen. Kary
 15:58:42 Sen. Regier
 15:59:31 Ms. Mackin, Helena
 15:58:42 Sen. Regier
 15:59:35 Sen. Gauthier
 16:00:22 Mr. Mackin
 16:01:09 Sen. Gauthier
 16:03:07 Ms. Harbage, DEQ
 16:03:43 Sen. Pope
 16:07:10 Rep. Skees
 16:09:31 Sen. Pope
 16:09:56 Ms. Mackin
 16:10:51 Sen. McNally

 16:11:32 Sen. Lynch left the meeting.

 16:16:54 Mr. Males, Nuclear Vote
 16:17:04 Sen. McNally
 16:18:51 Ms. Harbage
 16:20:15 Sen. McNally
 16:24:29 Rep. Skees
 16:24:55 Sen. McNally
 16:25:39 Sen. Morigeau
 16:26:03 Mr. Mackin

Closing by Sponsor:

16:27:13 Rep. Skees

HEARING ON HB 475

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:30:16 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB475, Revise Renewable Portfolio Standard to include hydropower.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:31:11 Dave Englund, assistant business manager, Boilermakers Local 11
 16:31:29 Lori Shaw, NorthWestern Energy
 16:32:05 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 44
 16:32:55 Bill Myers, Big Fork
 16:34:20 Charles Robison, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association
 16:34:51 Jackie McBroom, business manager, IBEW Local 233

Opponents' Testimony:

16:35:50 Whitner Chase, Montana Conservation Voters
16:37:17 Ruben Castren, Montana Public Interest Research Group

16:39:51 Gary Matson, Milltown

EXHIBIT(ens59a09)

16:40:59 Conor Ploeger, Montana Environmental Information Center
16:41:54 Madison Hebner, Forward Montana
16:42:54 Carmen Borchelt, Montana Audubon

EXHIBIT(ens59a10)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

16:45:22 Rep. Skees

16:46:34 Chair Ankney gave the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Small.

HEARING ON SB 86

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

16:46:53 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SB86, Generally revise obligations and conditions for property impacted by coal.

Proponents' Testimony:

16:49:31 Adam Haight, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
16:52:44 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 44
16:54:35 Stacey Yates, IBEW Local 1638
16:55:28 Nick Wonnacott, Laborers Local 1686
16:55:52 Dave Englund, assistant business manager, Boilermakers Local 11
16:56:23 John Johnson, business agent, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 400
16:56:50 Luke Hoffer, IBEW Local 233
16:57:10 Bill Meyers, Big Fork
16:58:48 Jackie McBroom, business manager, IBEW Local 233
16:59:51 Ryan Casterline, member, IBEW 1638; control room operator, Colstrip
17:00:31 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip
17:02:06 Jim Atchison, executive director, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation

17:02:36 Sen. Cuffe entered the meeting.

Opponents' Testimony:

17:04:39 Jenny Chambers, administrator, Waste Management and Remediation Division, Department of Environmental Quality
17:08:38 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy

17:15:34 Tom Ebzery, Avista; Portland General Electric
17:19:12 Charles Denowh, Rocky Mountain Power
17:20:07 Mark Taylor, Talen Montana
17:22:13 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association
17:26:36 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center
17:30:45 Gary Matson, Milltown

[EXHIBIT\(ens59a11\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

17:32:34 Sen. Ankney

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:43 PM

Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens59aad.pdf](#))