

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND CLAIMS

Call to Order: Chair Ryan Osmundson, on April 9, 2021 at 8:01 AM, in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Ryan Osmundson, Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Carl Glimm (R)
Sen. David Howard (R)
Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Shane A. Morigeau (D)
Sen. Daniel R. Salomon (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Cary Smith (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Prudence Gildroy, Committee Secretary
Heather Vande Sandt, Remote Meeting Coordinator
Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Branch

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 5, 4/1/2021; HB 6, 4/1/2021; HB 7, 4/1/2021; HB 8, 4/1/2021;
HB 11, 4/1/2021; HB 14, 4/1/2021

08:01:25 Chair Osmundson

HEARING ON HB 5

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

08:02:44 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92; opened the hearing on HB5, Long-Range Building Appropriations.

Proponents' Testimony:

08:05:34 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association

EXHIBIT(fcs68a01)

08:07:30 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

08:09:33 Clayton Christian, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE)

08:10:08 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns; also speaking for Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

08:11:32 Ryan Hannahoe, Montana Learning Center (MLC)

08:12:14 Molly Kruckenberg, director, Montana Historical Society

08:12:35 Donna Schmidt, business manager, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

08:13:09 Dave Williamson, chairman, Southwest Montana Veterans Home Foundation

08:14:06 Sen. Welborn joined the meeting.

08:15:12 Mike Lawson, Southwest Montana Veterans Home Foundation

08:16:29 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

08:18:52 Russ Katherman, Department of Administration

08:20:12 Kris Hansen, assistant attorney general, Department of Justice

08:22:12 Jennie Stapp, state librarian, Montana State Library

08:23:35 Dustin Temple, deputy director, Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP)

08:24:00 Leslie White, Department of Military Affairs

08:24:30 Glen Stinar, Montana Law Enforcement Academy

08:24:52 Barbara Quinn, Office of Public Instruction

08:25:08 Sue Clark, Forestry Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

08:25:34 Tim Conway, Department of Transportation

08:25:50 Barb Smith, Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

08:26:17 Zoe Barnard, administrator, Addictive and Mental Disorder Division, DPHHS

08:26:41 Paul Furthmyre, interim superintendent, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind

08:27:15 Jason Harlow, Office of Budget and Program Planning

08:27:32 Mike Murolo, Department of Transportation

Sen. Bogner and Sen. Jacobson joined the meeting.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

08:28:03 Sen. Keenan
08:28:37 Rep. Hopkins
08:29:39 Sen. Keenan
08:30:48 Rep. Hopkins
08:31:27 Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
08:32:03 Rep. Hopkins
08:32:33 Ms. Duncan, LFD
08:33:53 Sen. Keenan
08:34:13 Ms. Duncan
08:34:32 Sen. Keenan
08:34:48 Sen. Welborn
08:35:32 Clayton Christian, OCHE
08:35:46 Sen. Welborn
08:36:18 Mr. Christian
08:36:28 Sen. Ankney
08:36:57 Mr. Hannahoe, MLC
08:37:21 Sen. Jacobson
08:37:56 Mr. Temple, FWP
08:39:16 Sen. Jacobson
08:39:56 Mr. Temple
08:40:50 Sen. Ellis
08:41:35 Rep. Hopkins
08:42:05 Sen. Ellis
08:42:26 Rep. Hopkins
08:42:53 Sen. Keenan
08:43:16 Mr. Temple
08:47:28 Sen. Keenan
08:50:06 Mr. Temple
08:51:40 Sen. Flowers
08:52:22 Mr. Temple
08:52:29 Sen. Flowers
08:52:44 Mr. Temple
08:53:33 Sen. Glimm
08:55:19 Mr. Temple
08:57:48 Sen. Lang
08:58:09 Mr. Temple
09:01:07 Sen. Lang
09:01:16 Mr. Temple
09:01:30 Sen. Ankney
09:01:50 Mr. Temple
09:01:57 Sen. Ankney
09:02:05 Mr. Temple
09:02:27 Sen. Cuffe

Closing by Sponsor:

09:05:44 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 6

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:07:28 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB6, Renewable Resource Grants.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs68a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:10:28 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

09:11:03 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns; also speaking for Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

09:11:31 Rebecca Boslough, Montana Association of Conservation Districts

09:12:05 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Proponents' Testimony:

09:13:17 Lindsay Volpe, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Informational Testimony: None

09:17:25 Sen. Cuffe

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

09:18:16 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 7

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

09:18:35 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB7, Reclamation and Development Grants.

[EXHIBIT\(fcs68a03\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

09:20:14 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

09:21:27 Heidi Anderson Fohnagy, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

09:22:51 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 8**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:23:05 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB8, Renewable Resources Bonds and Loans.

09:23:49 Sen. Morigeau joined the meeting.

Proponents' Testimony:

09:24:49 Krista Lee Evans, Dry Prairie Water Authority; Dry Red Water Authority

09:25:40 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association

09:26:17 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition

09:27:09 Tim Burton, Montana League of Cities and Towns

09:27:26 Charles Denowh, Central Montana Regional Water Authority

09:28:07 Sen. Boldman joined the meeting.

09:28:24 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

09:28:26 Ms. Miller, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

09:29:02 Sen. Flowers

09:29:47 Rep. Hopkins

09:31:05 Sen. Ellis

09:31:43 Rep. Hopkins

09:32:44 Sen. Ellis

09:33:03 Rep. Hopkins

[EXHIBIT\(fcs68a04\)](#)

09:33:40 Chair Osmundson

09:34:08 Ms. Miller

Closing by Sponsor:

09:34:25 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 11**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

09:35:14 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB11, Treasure State Endowment Program.

09:37:31 Recess

09:54:53 Reconvene

Proponents' Testimony:

09:55:11 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)
 10:00:27 Tim Burton, executive director, Montana League of Cities and Towns
 10:00:51 Krista Lee Evans, Dry Prairie Regional Water Authority; Dry Red Water Authority; North Central Montana Water Authority
 10:01:29 Darryl James, executive director, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
 10:02:03 Bob Gilbert, City of Glendive; City of Colstrip; Phillips County; Musselshell County

Opponents' Testimony: None**Informational Testimony:**

10:04:10 Cheryl Cohen, Department of Commerce
 10:04:42 Anna Miller, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:05:09 Sen. Ellis
 10:05:38 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD)
 10:05:55 Mr. Rittal, MACo
 10:06:05 Sen. Ellis
 10:06:24 Rep. Hopkins
 10:07:04 Sen. Cuffe

Closing by Sponsor:

10:07:57 Rep. Hopkins

HEARING ON HB 14**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

10:08:43 Rep. Mike Hopkins (R), HD 92, opened the hearing on HB14, Long-Range Building Bonding Program.

Proponents' Testimony:

10:10:35 Clayton Christian, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
 10:11:18 Alan Townsend, dean, College of Forestry and Conservation, University of Montana (UM)
 10:12:10 Mike Lawson, Southwest Montana Veterans Home Foundation
 10:16:26 Rachel Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association; Montana Cattlewomen
 10:17:23 Krista Lee Evans, Montana Agriculture Business Association; Montana Milk Producers Association; Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
 10:18:02 Jessie Luther, Idaho Forest Group
 10:18:29 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union
 10:19:10 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association
 10:19:37 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
 10:20:17 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited
 10:20:36 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition
 10:21:16 David McEwen, Montana Wool Growers Association
 10:22:04 Craig Rawlings, Forest Business Networks
 10:24:02 Dave Williamson, chairman, Southwest Montana Veterans Home Foundation

10:28:09 Nick Desimone, chief operating officer, SmartLam
 10:29:27 Mike Honeycutt, Department of Livestock; Montana Board of Livestock

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(fcs68a05\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony:

10:28 Russ Katherman, Architecture and Engineering Division, Department of Administration
 10:30:46 Christy Clark, deputy director, Department of Agriculture
 10:31:14 Cheryl Cohen, Department of Commerce
 10:31:47 Lindsay Volpe, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 10:32:11 Becky Schlauch, Department of Revenue
 10:32:31 Heidi Anderson Fohnagy, DNRC
 10:33:02 Sue Clark, DNRC

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

10:33:37 Sen. Ellis
 10:34:22 Rep. Hopkins
 10:35:04 Sen. Glimm
 10:35:32 Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Division, (LFD)
 10:35:59 Sen. Glimm
 10:36:37 Mr. Townsend, UM
 10:37:02 Sen. Glimm
 10:37:15 Mr. Townsend
 10:37:56 Sen. Cuffe

Closing by Sponsor:

10:40:13 Rep. Hopkins
 10:41:37 Sen. Ankney
 10:42:04 Chair Osmundson
 10:42:10 Kris Wilkinson, Legislative Fiscal Division
 10:42:40 Chair Osmundson
 10:43:50 Sen. Keenan
 10:44:03 Chair Osmundson
 10:45:15 Sen. Cuffe
 10:46:07 Chair Osmundson

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:46 A.M.

Prudence Gildroy, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([fcs68aad.pdf](#))