

## MINUTES

### MONTANA SENATE 67th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Jason D. Small, on April 12, 2021 at 3:00 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. Duane Ankney (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)

**Members Present by Zoom Video Conference:**

Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Tom Jacobson (D)  
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 320, 4/8/2021; HB 648, 4/9/2021; HB 695, 4/9/2021

**HEARING ON HB 648****Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:03:20 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB648, Generally revise natural resource laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

15:04:23 Bob Gilbert, City of Colstrip  
15:06:31 Melissa Lewis, Puget Sound Energy (PSE)

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

15:08:04 John Metesh, director, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG)  
15:08:18 Chris Dorrington, director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:08:42 Sen. Gillespie  
15:09:47 Mr. Dorrington, DEQ  
15:09:55 Sen. Gillespie  
15:10:07 Mr. Gilbert, City of Colstrip  
15:10:49 Sen. Pomnichowski  
  
15:13:35 Sen. Welborn entered the meeting.  
  
15:14:28 Ms. Lewis, PSE  
15:15:41 Sen. Pomnichowski  
15:17:06 Mr. Metesh, MBMG  
15:17:39 Sen. Cohenour  
15:18:36 Mr. Metesh  
15:21:31 Sen. Ankney  
Mr. Metesh  
15:22:38 Sen. Brown  
15:23:36 Rep. Gunderson  
  
15:24:11 Chair Small gave the duties of the chair to Sen. Welborn.  
  
15:25:14 Sen. Hoven  
15:25:58 Rep. Gunderson  
15:27:23 Sen. Hoven  
15:27:47 Rep. Kassmier  
15:28:10 Sen. Flowers  
15:29:10 Rep. Kassmier  
15:29:44 Sen. Flowers  
15:31:41 Ms. Lewis  
15:32:30 Sen. Lang  
15:34:28 Mr. Metesh  
15:35:16 Sen. Lang  
15:35:33 Sen. Ankney

15:37:49 Chair Welborn

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:38:02 Rep. Kassmier

**HEARING ON HB 695**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:38:52 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB695, Generally revise environmental laws.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:41:10 Sen. Gillespie

15:41:35 Rep. Loge

15:41:58 Sen. Hoven

15:42:16 Rep. Loge

15:42:57 Sen. Lang

15:43:19 Rep. Loge

15:43:42 Sen. Lang

**Closing by Sponsor:**

15:43:57 Rep. Loge

**HEARING ON HB 320**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

15:44:38 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB320, Prohibit sales of federal land transferred to Montana.

**Proponents' Testimony:** None

**Opponents' Testimony:**

15:46:23 Amanda Kaster, director, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:47:45 Noah Marion, Montana Wilderness Association (MWA)

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(nas69a01\)\*\*](#)

15:50:55 Nick Gevock, conservation director, Montana Wildlife Federation

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(nas69a02\)\*\*](#)

15:51:33 Eric Melson, Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

[\*\*EXHIBIT\(nas69a03\)\*\*](#)

Additional Testimony Received:

[EXHIBIT\(nas69a04\)](#)

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

15:54:04	Sen. Gillespie
15:55:32	Rep. Gunderson
15:56:47	Sen. Lang
15:57:42	Rep. Gunderson
15:58:19	Sen. Lang
16:00:08	Ms. Kaster, DNRC
16:00:24	Sen. Hoven
16:00:42	Ms. Kaster
16:00:57	Sen. Pomnichowski
16:01:28	Mr. Marion, MWA
16:02:25	Sen. Pomnichowski
16:04:41	Rep. Gunderson
16:05:31	Sen. Pomnichowski
16:07:04	Ms. Kaster

**Closing by Sponsor:**

16:08:05	Rep. Gunderson
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**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 4:11 PM

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Lauren de Paepe, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([nas69aad.pdf](#))