

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) AGRICULTURE**

**Call to Order:** Chair Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R, on February 02, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 137

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Dave Fern, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Marty Malone, Vice Chair (R)  
Rep. Fred Anderson (R)  
Rep. James Bergstrom (R)  
Rep. Tony Brockman (R)  
Rep. Bob Carter (D)  
Rep. Julie Dooling (R)  
Rep. Paul Green (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)  
Rep. Frank Smith (D)  
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)  
Rep. Zack Wirth (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Brad Barker (R)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

**Staff Present:** Andria Hardin, Research Analyst  
Rose Harmon, Secretary  
Loran Nelson, Attorney

**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 350 01/30/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 350 - Generally revise country of origin labeling**

**Opening Statement:**

15:05:42 Rep. Frank Smith (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 350, Generally revise country of origin labeling.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:06:24 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:07:27 Rachel Prevost, MFU

[EXHIBIT\(230202AGHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230202AGHa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230202AGHa3\)](#)

15:08:56 Erik Somerfeld, Rancher

15:09:57 Bruce Shultz, Rancher, Vice President, National Farmers' Organization

15:10:41 joined the meeting.

15:12:07 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)

[EXHIBIT\(230202AGHa4\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230202AGHa5\)](#)

15:14:59 Jack Kane, Self

15:17:06 Walter Schweitzer, President, Montana Farmers Union

15:20:55 Samantha Ferrat, Rancher

15:22:16 John Ferrat, Rancher

15:24:05 Gilles Stockton, Self and Northern Plains Resource Council

15:25:58 Benjamin Peterson, Rancher

15:27:37 Richard Liebert, Rancher

15:29:27 Layne Johnson, Self

15:54:27

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:31:46 Brad Griffin, President, Montana Retail Association

15:34:26 Rep. Brandon Ler, Montana Representative (R) HD 35; Rancher

15:36:30 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

15:40:35 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:41:12 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana StockGrowers Association

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:44:51 Rep. Katie Sullivan

15:45:20 Walter Schweitzer

15:47:55 Rep. Katie Sullivan

15:48:21 Walter Schweitzer

15:49:12 Rep. Paul Green

15:50:10 Walter Schweitzer

**Closing Statement:**

15:52:47 Rep. Frank Smith (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 350.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:54:49

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Rose Harmon, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230202AGHaad\)](#)