

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gist-R, on February 15, 2023 at 3:29 PM, in 172

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Steve Gunderson, Chair (R)
Rep. Steve Gist, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Marilyn Marler, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Tom France (D)
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)

Staff Present: LJ Jennings, Secretary
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
John Olson, 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 431 02/08/2023

HB 460 02/13/2023

HB 473 02/13/2023

Executive Action:

15:35:12 Rep. France has arrived
15:49:37 Rep. Hinkle has left
15:57:10 Rep. Malone has left
16:12:36 Rep. Malone has arrived

HEARING ON HB 431 - Generally revise laws related to carbon emissions

Opening Statement:

15:30:47 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 431, Generally revise laws related to carbon emissions.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230215NAHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:38:50 Dr. Dave Carlson, Self
15:42:30 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, (MEIC)
[EXHIBIT\(230215NAHa2\)](#)
15:45:21 Jocelyn Leroux, Montana Conservation Voters
15:46:20 Howard Christiansen, Self
15:51:44 Connie Campbell-Pearson, Self

Opponent Testimony:

15:54:38 Charles Denouwh, Colstrip Energy Limited Partners, (CELP) and Yellowstone Energy Limited Partners, (YELP)
[EXHIBIT\(230215NAHa3\)](#)
16:00:00 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association, (MPA)
16:01:09 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, (TSRA)

- 16:02:36 Amanda Frickle, Montana American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, (MTAFL-CIO)
- 16:04:44 Al Ekblad, Operating Engineers of Local 400
- 16:06:14 Luke Hoffer, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 233, (IBEW 233) and Montana Conference of Electrical Workers, (MSCEW)
- 16:07:47 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties, (MAOGCC)
- 16:09:07 Jan Rouse, North Western Energy, (NWE)
- 16:09:49 John Forkan, Montana State Building and Construction Trade Counsel, (MBCTC)
- 16:10:34 Dan Gray, Rosebud Operating Services INC

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 16:15:43 Bo Wilkins, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

- 16:16:20 Rep. Gary Parry
- 16:16:51 Rep. Ed Stafman-D
- 16:19:41 Rep. Gary Parry
- 16:19:53 Rep. Ed Stafman-D
- 16:21:39 Rep. Gary Parry
- 16:23:18 Dr. Dave Carlson

Closing Statement:

- 16:24:06 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 431.
- 16:28:16 **Recessed**
- 16:35:59 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 460 - Revise transfer of hard rock mining permits

Opening Statement:

16:36:06 Chair Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 460, Revise transfer of hard rock mining permits.

Proponent Testimony:

16:38:31 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association, (MMA)

16:43:17 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, (TSRA)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:45:03 Dan Walsh, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

16:32:01 Vice Chair Gist assumed position of the Chair.

16:45:34 Rep. Gary Parry

16:46:06 Dan Walsh, DEQ

16:46:28 Rep. Jill Cohenour

16:46:51 Dan Walsh, DEQ

16:47:22 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

16:48:00 Dan Walsh, DEQ

16:48:30 Rep. Kenneth Walsh

16:48:46 Dan Walsh, DEQ

16:49:19 Rep. Marty Malone

16:50:13 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

16:50:15 Rep. Gary Parry

16:50:32 Dan Walsh, DEQ

Closing Statement:

16:51:03 Chair Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 460.

HEARING ON HB 473 - Provide selenium standard for Lake Koocanusa

Opening Statement:

16:52:24 Chair Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 473, Provide selenium standard for Lake Koocanusa.

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:56:47 Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

17:01:56 Eileen Ryce, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)

17:04:59 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center, (MEIC)

[EXHIBIT\(230215NAHa4\)](#)

17:07:03 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited, (MTU)

17:08:17 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, (BCHA)

17:09:13 Richard Janssen, Self

17:11:39 Genny Hoyle, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

17:16:38 Brad Smith, Idaho Conservation League

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:19:13 Laura Sweeney, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

17:19:32 Andy Ulven, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

17:19:58 Tonya Fish, US. Environmental Protection Agency, (US EPA)

17:20:55 Kirsten Bowers, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

17:21:42 Rep. Jill Cohenour

17:22:23 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

17:22:31 Rep. Jill Cohenour

17:22:48 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
17:22:50 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:23:17 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
17:23:53 Rep. Gary Parry
17:24:23 Eileen Ryce, FWP
17:24:37 Rep. Gary Parry
17:24:54 Eileen Ryce, FWP
17:25:34 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:25:57 Tonya Fish, US EPA
17:28:32 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:28:45 Trevor Selch, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, (FWP)
17:29:43 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:29:44 Trevor Selch, FWP
17:30:25 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:30:29 Rep. Marty Malone
17:30:48 Trevor Selch, FWP
17:31:19 Laura Sweeney, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)
17:32:19 Rep. Marty Malone
17:32:28 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:32:33 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle joined the meeting.
17:33:07 Trevor Selch, FWP
17:33:51 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:33:59 Trevor Selch, FWP
17:34:30 Rep. Jill Cohenour

17:35:19 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:37:44 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:38:04 Tonya Fish, (US EPA)
17:38:49 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:38:55 Rep. Tom France
17:39:43 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:42:03 Eileen Ryce, FWP
17:42:35 Vice Chair Steve Gist
17:43:05 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:43:10 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:44:06 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
17:45:37 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler
17:46:03 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R
17:50:40 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:51:25 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:51:33 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:51:56 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:52:39 Rep. Jill Cohenour
17:53:01 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

Closing Statement:

17:53:41 Chair Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 473.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:57:55

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230215NAHaad\)](#)