

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (H) ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Katie Zolnikov-R, on March 20, 2023 at 3:30 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)

Staff Present: Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst

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:

SB 109 03/14/2023

SB 208 03/14/2023

SB 274 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

SJ 5

SJ 6

SB 274

HEARING ON SB 274 - Revising major facility siting act decision requirements

Opening Statement:

15:31:23 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 274, Revising major facility siting act decision requirements.

Proponent Testimony:

15:36:53 Darryl James, Self

15:39:49 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

15:40:47 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

15:41:54 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce

15:42:17 Adam Haight, Laborers' Local 1686

15:42:35 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association

15:43:14 Dwight Rose, IBEW Local 44

15:43:35 Robin Arnold, Renewable Northwest

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:44:30 Craig Jones, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:45:17 Vice Chair Steven Galloway

15:45:31 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov-R

Closing Statement:

15:46:28 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 274.

HEARING ON SB 109 - Revise laws related to redistricting the PSC

Opening Statement:

15:47:08 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 109, Revise laws related to redistricting the PSC.

[EXHIBIT\(230320FEHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

15:50:48 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:52:57 Paul Pacini, Self

15:54:45 Becky Piske, Self

15:56:24 Jeremy Keene, Public Works, Missoula

15:57:57 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center

15:59:30 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters of Montana

16:01:59 Linda Schmitt, Self

16:04:30 Molly Bell, Montana Conservation Voters

16:05:49 Joanie Kresich, Northern Plains Resource Council

16:07:28 Patti Steinmuller, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:10:03 Rep. Casey Knudsen

16:10:09 Sen. Keith Regier-R

16:10:24 Rep. Derek Harvey

16:11:37 Rep. Paul Fielder

16:12:17 Vice Chair Katie Sullivan
16:14:00 Rep. Kelly Kortum
16:15:48 Rep. Laurie Bishop
16:23:40 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
16:26:33 Chair Katie Zolnikov

Closing Statement:

16:30:16 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 109.

HEARING ON SB 208 - Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices

Opening Statement:

16:32:50 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 208, Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices.

Proponent Testimony:

16:33:02 Ameer Grmoljez, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
[EXHIBIT\(230320FEHa2\)](#)
16:34:54 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)
16:35:34 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)
16:37:20 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
16:38:43 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce
16:39:12 Ryan Hall, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)
16:39:40 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties
16:40:12 Adam Haight, Laborers' Local 1686
16:41:27 Darryl James, Westmorland Mining
16:42:12 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
16:42:55 Dwight Rose, IBEW 44

16:43:41 Amee Grmoljez, on behalf of Sam Sill, Montana Retailers Association and Montana Homebuilders Association

Opponent Testimony:

16:44:33 Thomas Jodoin, MT League of Cities and Towns

16:47:02 Sam Forstag, City of Missoula

16:47:50 Matthew Pacini, Montana Environmental Informational Center

16:50:12 Shannon James, Montana Chapter Sierra Club

16:51:38 Julie Holzer, Northern Plains Resource Council

16:53:25 Abby Huseth, Climate Smart Missoula

16:55:16 Natalie Meyer, City of Bozeman

16:58:36 Molly Bell, Montana Conservation Voter Education Fund

16:59:32 Dr. Melody Cunningham, American Academy of Pediatrics

17:01:19 Mike Lilly, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:04:02 Eric Strauss, Department of Labor and Industry

Questions from Committee:

17:04:29 Rep. Paul Green

17:04:33 Alan Olson, MPA

17:05:17 Rep. Larry Brewster

17:05:23 Sen. Jason Small-R

17:05:56 Chair Katie Zolnikov

17:06:01 Chris Puyear, NWE

17:08:42 Vice Chair Katie Sullivan

17:10:35 Rep. Derek Harvey

17:11:00 Peggy Trenk, TSRA

Closing Statement:

17:11:24 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 208.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 5 - Resolution urging Congress to fully fund law enforcement in Indian Country

17:14:33 **Motion:** Vice Chair Katie Sullivan moved that **SJ 5 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:14:33 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Casey Knudsen

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 6 - Joint resolution to recognize the Indian boarding school experience

17:17:11 **Motion:** Vice Chair Katie Sullivan moved that **SJ 6 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:17:11 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Tyson Running Wolf

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 274 - Revising major facility siting act decision requirements

17:19:00 **Motion:** Vice Chair Katie Sullivan moved that **SB 274 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

17:18:53 Rep. Paul Fielder

17:19:30 Chair Katie Zolnikov

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

17:19:00 **Carrier Assigned:** Rep. Katie Zolnikov

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:21:02

Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary