

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 27, 2023 at 3:00 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. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (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 32 03/15/2023

SB 33 03/15/2023

SJ 10 03/15/2023

HB 876 03/24/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 876 - Create a Montana broadband coordinator

Opening Statement:

15:01:59 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, opened the hearing on HB 876, Create a Montana broadband coordinator.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230327FEHa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:39 Patrick Yawaki, Blackfeet Tribe

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:07:36 Rep. Greg Kmetz
15:07:41 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:07:49 Vice Chair Katie Sullivan
15:08:28 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:08:57 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
15:09:25 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:11:19 Rep. Paul Fielder
15:11:28 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:12:35 Chair Katie Zolnikov
15:13:02 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D

15:13:44 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
15:13:54 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:14:51 Chair Katie Zolnikov
15:15:05 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:15:36 Vice Chair Katie Sullivan
15:15:51 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:16:31 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
15:16:53 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:17:11 Rep. Derek Harvey
15:17:34 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
15:18:16 Chair Katie Zolnikov
15:18:36 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D
16:54:33 Scheduling

Closing Statement:

15:19:44 Rep. Kelly Kortum (D), HD 65, closed the hearing on HB 876.

15:20:42 **Recessed**

15:29:35 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON SJ 10 - Resolution against removal of Snake River dams

Opening Statement:

15:29:51 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SJ 10, Resolution against removal of Snake River dams.

Proponent Testimony:

15:34:11 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association

15:40:57 Katy Pfennigs, Flathead Electric Cooperative

[EXHIBIT\(230327FEHa2\)](#)

15:47:21 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association
15:48:02 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation
15:48:57 Charles Roberson, Montana Chamber of Commerce
15:49:20 Kurt Miller, Northwest River Partners

Opponent Testimony:

15:55:24 Derek Goldman, Endangered Species Coalition
15:57:39 Dave Dittloff, National Wildlife Federation
16:01:35 Zack Waterman, American Rivers

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:09:30 Kate Wilson, Bonneville Power Administration

Questions from Committee:

16:10:49 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
16:10:52 Kurt Miller
16:14:36 Rep. Bob Phalen
16:15:04 Dave Dittloff
16:15:29 Rep. Bob Phalen
16:15:37 Katy Pfennigs
16:17:16 Kate Wilson
16:17:53 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
16:18:14 Kate Wilson
16:18:37 Rep. Paul Fielder
16:18:52 Dave Dittloff
16:21:20 Rep. Greg Kmetz

16:22:01 Mark Lambrecht Director of Government Relations, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

Closing Statement:

16:23:08 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SJ 10.

HEARING ON SB 32 - Revising pipeline safety regulation penalties

Opening Statement:

16:25:49 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 32, Revising pipeline safety regulation penalties.

Proponent Testimony:

16:29:47 James Brown, President, Montana Public Service Commission

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:32:30 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission

16:33:00 Joel Tierney, Public Service Commission

Questions from Committee:

16:33:57 Rep. Greg Kmetz

16:34:01 James Brown

16:35:21 Rep. Laurie Bishop

16:35:27 James Brown

16:36:46 Rep. Bob Phalen

16:36:56 James Brown

16:37:29 Joel Tierney

16:38:57 Vice Chair Steven Galloway

16:39:06 James Brown

16:40:23 Joel Tierney

Closing Statement:

16:41:19 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 32.

HEARING ON SB 33 - Repealing class C motor carrier regulations

Opening Statement:

16:42:52 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SB 33, Repealing class C motor carrier regulations.

Proponent Testimony:

16:46:53 James Brown, President, Montana Public Service Commission

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:50:47 Chair Katie Zolnikov

16:50:54 James Brown

Closing Statement:

16:52:22 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SB 33.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:56:04

Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230327FEHaad\)](#)