

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (H) ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Katie Sullivan-D, on March 29, 2023 at 3:30 PM, in 472

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Katie Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Rep. Steven Galloway, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Larry Brewster (R)
Rep. Paul Fielder (R)
Rep. Paul Green (R)
Rep. Derek Harvey (D)
Rep. Kelly Kortum (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R)
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Bob Phalen (R)
Rep. Katie Sullivan (D)

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:

HB 961 03/28/2023

HB 962 03/28/2023

Executive Action:

HB 876 TO TABLE

HB 961 TO TABLE

HB 962 TO TABLE

15:32:09 **Recessed**

15:36:50 **Reconvened**

HEARING ON HB 961 - Create the Montana Energy and Infrastructure Fund

Opening Statement:

15:36:59 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, opened the hearing on HB 961, Create the Montana Energy and Infrastructure Fund.

Proponent Testimony:

15:40:30 Cary Hegreberg, MT Bankers Association

15:42:38 Robin Arnold, RNW

15:43:20 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

15:44:49 Adam Haight, Laborers 1686

15:45:19 Dwight Rose, IBEW 44

Opponent Testimony:

15:46:40 Ian Lund, MEIC

15:47:03 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy

15:49:12 Mekenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:50:41 Dan Lloyd, Department of Environmental Quality

Questions from Committee:

15:38:03 Gavel to Vice Chair Galloway

15:51:39 Rep. Paul Green

15:51:48 Dan Lloyd

15:53:48 Rep. Laurie Bishop

15:53:57 Dan Lloyd
15:56:59 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
15:57:08 Chris Puyear
15:58:30 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
15:58:36 Rep. Kenneth Walsh-R
16:00:41 Vice Chair Steven Galloway
16:00:43 Dan Lloyd
16:05:12 Gavel to Chair Zolnikov

Closing Statement:

16:02:23 Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R), HD 71, closed the hearing on HB 961.

HEARING ON HB 962 - Generally revising energy laws

Opening Statement:

16:03:47 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, opened the hearing on HB 962, Generally revising energy laws.

Discussion:

[EXHIBIT\(230329FEHa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230329FEHa2\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

None

Opponent Testimony:

16:07:56 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy

16:10:51 Ian Lund, MEIC

[EXHIBIT\(230329FEHa3\)](#)

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:13:19 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission

Questions from Committee:

16:16:20 Rep. Paul Fielder

16:16:23 Will Rosquist

Closing Statement:

16:17:36 Rep. Lyn Hellegaard (R), HD 97, closed the hearing on HB 962.

16:19:48 **Recessed**

16:28:04 **Reconvened**

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 876 - Create a Montana broadband coordinator

16:28:14 **Motion:** Rep. Steven Galloway moved that **HB 876 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

16:28:36 Rep. Kelly Kortum

16:29:27 Chair Katie Zolnikov

16:28:14 **Vote:** Motion failed 9 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Sullivan, voting yes.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

16:29:00 **Motion:** Rep. Laurie Bishop moved that **HB 876 TO TABLE.**

16:29:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 961 - Create the Montana Energy and Infrastructure Fund

16:31:28 **Motion:** Rep. Steven Galloway moved that **HB 961 DO PASS.**

16:31:42 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Joshua Kassmier moved that **HB 961 TO TABLE.**

16:31:42 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried 9 - 4 by voice vote with Rep. Bishop, Rep. Harvey, Rep. Kortum, Rep. Sullivan, voting no.
Rep. Sullivan, By Proxy

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 962 - Generally revising energy laws

16:33:53 **Motion:** Rep. Steven Galloway moved that **HB 962 DO PASS.**

16:34:05 **Substitute Motion:** Rep. Laurie Bishop moved that **HB 962 TO TABLE.**

16:34:05 **Vote:** Substitute Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:36:10

Brigitte Bellefleur, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230329FEHaad\)](#)