

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

Call to Order: Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on April 14, 2023 at 3:32 PM, in Room 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. Tom France (D)
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Marty Malone (R)
Rep. Russel Miner (R)
Rep. Gary Parry (R)
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)
Rep. Marvin Weatherwax (D)

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:

SB 557 04/11/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 557 - Revise MEPA relating to litigation

Opening Statement:

15:33:48 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, opened the hearing on SB 557, Revise MEPA relating to litigation.

Proponent Testimony:

15:38:38 Steve Wade, Montana Contractors Association, (MCA)
15:40:37 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association, (MPA)
15:43:49 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties, (MAOGCC)
15:45:12 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association, (TSRA)
15:47:28 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors, (MAR)
15:48:26 John Metropoulos, Westmoreland Mining
15:51:01 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electrical Cooperatives Association, (MECA)
15:52:01 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association, (MWPA)
15:53:33 George Harris, Montana Coal Council, (MCC)

Opponent Testimony:

15:57:26 Lance Fourstar, Montana American Indian Caucus
[EXHIBIT\(230414NAHa1\)](#)
15:58:45 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:01:39 Henry Kriegel, Americans for Prosperity
16:04:34 Colin Davis, Self
16:07:19 Steve Krum, Self
[EXHIBIT\(230414NAHa2\)](#)

16:12:50 Liz Moore, Montana Non Profit Association

16:13:50 Karrie Kahle, Self

16:16:09 Patricia Grabow, Self

16:18:07 Harold Hoem, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230414NAHa3\)](#)

16:19:56 Jan Hoem, Self

16:21:13 Michelle Uberuega, Self

16:23:09 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, (MEIC)

16:24:22 Keegan Medrano, ACLU of Montana

16:25:26 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Back Country Hunters and Anglers

16:25:52 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:26:08 Ben Lamb, Montana Wildlife Federation

16:26:28 Nick Gevock, Bear Creek Council, (BCC)

16:26:52 Susan Evans, Montana Sierra Club

16:27:15 Beth Kaeding, Northern Plains Resource Council

16:27:43 Aaron Felder, Self

16:30:26 Barbara O'Grady, Bear Creek Council, (BCC)

16:32:50 Mindy Ferrell, Self

16:33:21 Clint Nagel, Gallatin Wildlife Association

16:33:52 Richard Liebert, Self

16:34:31 Robert Horne, Self

16:35:12 Colleen Hinds, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

16:36:16 Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

16:37:13 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

16:37:32 Rebecca Harbage, Department of Environmental Quality, (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

16:37:49 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

16:39:19 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

16:39:30 Karrie Kahle

16:40:21 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

16:42:51 Steve Wade, MCA

16:43:46 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

16:44:48 Sen. Mark Noland-R

16:44:53 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

16:45:47 Sen. Mark Noland-R

16:45:57 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

16:47:37 Rep. Jill Cohenour

16:47:56 Ann Hedges, MEIC

16:51:44 Chair Steve Gunderson

16:52:00 Ann Hedges, MEIC

16:53:01 Chair Steve Gunderson

16:53:07 Ann Hedges, MEIC

16:53:23 Chair Steve Gunderson

16:53:34 Rep. Jill Cohenour

16:54:09 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler

16:54:34 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle

16:55:12 Chair Steve Gunderson

16:55:19	Ann Hedges, MEIC
16:56:26	Rep. Marty Malone
16:57:11	Steve Wade, MCA
16:57:55	Rep. Marty Malone
16:58:23	Steve Wade, MCA
16:59:14	Rep. Marty Malone
16:59:34	Steve Wade, MCA
17:00:56	Rep. Gary Parry
17:01:54	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:02:01	Rep. Gary Parry
17:02:25	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:03:31	Rep. Gary Parry
17:03:48	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:04:10	Rep. Gary Parry
17:04:36	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:05:16	Rep. Gary Parry
17:05:35	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:05:42	Rep. Jonathan Karlen
17:06:30	Sen. Mark Noland-R
17:06:34	Steve Wade, MCA
17:08:29	Rep. Jonathan Karlen
17:09:03	Steve Wade, MCA
17:09:40	Rep. Jonathan Karlen
17:10:15	Steve Wade, MCA

17:10:31 Rep. Tom France
17:11:14 Steve Wade, MCA
17:11:36 Rep. Tom France
17:11:44 Steve Wade, MCA
17:11:59 Rep. Tom France
17:12:30 Steve Wade, MCA
17:12:53 Rep. Tom France
17:13:27 Steve Wade, MCA
17:14:08 Rep. Tom France
17:14:39 Sen. Mark Noland-R
17:15:40 Rep. Kenneth Walsh
17:16:26 Chris Dorrington, DEQ
17:17:28 Rep. Marty Malone
17:18:00 Sen. Mark Noland-R
17:18:03 Rep. Marty Malone
17:18:53 Chair Steve Gunderson
17:19:39 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
17:20:14 Rebecca Harbage, DEQ
17:21:03 Chair Steve Gunderson
17:21:09 Rebecca Harbage, DEQ

Closing Statement:

17:21:22 Sen. Mark Noland (R), SD 10, closed the hearing on SB 557.

17:25:19 **Recessed**

17:36:09 **Reconvened**

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 17:38:33

LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230414NAHaad\)](#)