

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Steve Gunderson-R, on April 17, 2023 at 4:06 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. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marty Malone (R)  
Rep. Russel Miner (R)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Rep. Sue Vinton (R)  
Rep. Kenneth Walsh (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:

HB 971 04/14/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 971 - Revise environmental policy act**

**Opening Statement:**

16:09:09 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 971, Revise environmental policy act.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:10:49 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce

16:13:23 Leo Barry, Self

16:14:41 Jim Keane, Self

16:16:59 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association

16:18:28 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association

16:19:52 Henry Kriegle, Americans for Prosperity

16:20:45 George Harris, Montana Coal Counsel

16:21:39 Dwight Rose, International Brotherhood of Construction

16:22:15 Clint Penny, Self

16:22:35 Riley McCauley, Carpenters Local 82

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:23:08 Steve Krum, Self

16:25:31 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:26:38 Casey Felder, MEPA Works

16:28:05 Aaron Felder, Self

16:30:12 Craig McClure, Self

16:30:58 Winona Bateman, Self

16:33:11 Kenzie Criswell, Self

16:34:53 Addie Murray, Self

16:36:00 Tom Tschida, Self

16:36:41 Hugh Healow, Self

16:38:41 Mark Nicholson, Self

16:40:00 Marylis Filipovich, Self

16:41:02 Gary Aitken, Self

16:41:32 Joan Kriesich, Self

16:42:55 Andrew Gouder, CFC

16:44:14 Hal Schmid, Self

16:45:44 Katiyana Stutzer, Montana Back Country Fishers and Anglers

16:45:55 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

16:46:17 Margret McDonald, Big Sky 55 Plus

16:46:35 Ann Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center

16:46:50 Richard Thweatt, Self

16:47:22 Nick Gevock, Bear Creek Counsel

16:47:35 Noreen Appling-Friedstadt, Self

16:48:23 Terry Cunningham, City of Bozeman

16:48:42 Robyn Morrison, League of Women Voters

16:49:08 James Coefield, Self

16:49:23 Jim Parker, Self

16:49:47 Clinton Nagel, Gallatin Wildlife Association

16:50:23 Kat Elam, Forward Montana

16:50:52 Katie Thompson, Self

16:51:11 Isabel Shaida, Self

16:51:27 Harold Hoem, Montana Elders for Livable Climate

16:52:07 Carah Ronan, self

16:52:25 Jenna Martin, National Organization for Women

16:52:43 Steve Thompson, Self

16:53:21 William Geer, Self

16:53:45 Tim Stevens, Self

16:54:05 Claudia Narcisco, Self

16:54:31 Gary Matson, Self

16:54:57 Jan Strout, National Organization for Women

16:55:12 Pari Kemmick, Self

16:55:26 Molly Bell, Montana Conservation Voters

16:55:47 Mary Catherine Dunphy, Self

16:56:05 Graham Cummins, Self

16:56:28 Elani Borhegyi, Self

16:56:46 Carol Wilburn, Self

16:57:09 Linda Henderson, Self

16:57:40 Paul Smith, Self

16:58:00 John Ahlquist, Self

16:58:15 Mayre Flowers, Citizens for a Better Flathead

16:58:45 Caitlin Piserchia, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club

16:59:20 Larry Bean, Self

16:59:45 Kristine Glenn, Self

17:00:00 Jeremy Drake, Self

17:00:29 Helena Edelson, Self  
17:00:58 Jim Roach, Self  
17:01:12 Daniel Lombardi, Self  
17:01:31 Marian Kummer, Self  
17:01:39 Anne Geiger, Self  
17:02:03 Will Swearingen, Self  
17:02:44 Barb Emineth, Self  
17:03:08 Mary Fitzpatrick, Self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:04:02 Chris Dorrington, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

**Questions from Committee:**

17:04:57 Rep. Gary Parry  
17:05:55 Chris Dorrington  
17:06:05 Rep. Kenneth Walsh  
17:07:17 Chris Dorrington  
17:07:32 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler  
17:07:50 Rep. Tom France  
17:09:29 Chris Dorrington  
17:09:49 Rep. Tom France  
17:11:20 Rep. Kassmier  
17:11:53 Vice Chair Marilyn Marler  
17:12:06 Rep. Kassmier  
17:12:40 Rep. Jill Cohenour  
17:12:57 Rep. Kassmier  
17:14:36 Chris Dorrington

17:15:02 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
17:15:42 Rep. Kassmier  
17:16:03 Vice Chair Steve Gist  
17:19:36 Chris Dorrington  
17:20:16 Chair Steve Gunderson  
17:20:39 Steve Wade  
17:22:05 Chris Dorrington  
17:23:53 Sonya Nowakowski  
17:24:28 Rep. Jonathan Karlen  
17:25:26 Rep. Kassmier  
17:26:35 Chris Dorrington

**Closing Statement:**

17:28:15 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 971.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:29:08

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LJ Jennings, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230417NAHaad\)](#)