

MINUTES
MONTANA SENATE
68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION
COMMITTEE ON (S) ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Walt Sales-R, on January 05, 2023 at 2:02 PM, in 317

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Walt Sales, Chair (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Jason Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

Staff Present: Hunter Camac, Attorney
Jason Mohr, OBPP Staffer
Jack Racicot, Secretary

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:

Executive Action:

Committee Introductions

14:04:33

Committee Discussion:

14:04:25	Sen. Jason Small
14:04:36	Sen. Ryan Lynch
14:04:48	Sen. Keith Regier
14:05:01	Sen. Mike Cuffe
14:05:28	Sen. Christopher Pope
14:06:10	Sen. Janet Ellis
14:06:40	Sen. Brad Molnar
14:08:28	Sen. Denise Hayman
14:09:32	Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
14:09:52	Sen. Walt Sales
14:10:10	Jason Mohr
14:11:43	Jack Racicot
14:12:21	Hunter Camac
14:12:36	Sen. Walt Sales
14:14:05	Sen. Denise Hayman
14:14:16	Sen. Walt Sales
14:14:54	Sen. Denise Hayman
14:15:04	Sen. Walt Sales

14:15:18 Sen. Keith Regier

14:13:04 [EXHIBIT\(230105ENSa1\)](#)

14:16:32 **Motion:** Sen. Regier

14:16:32 **Vote:** Motion failed 7 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Cuffe, Sen. Regier, Sen. Small, voting yes.

14:16:44

Committee Discussion:

14:16:36 Sen. Mike Cuffe

14:16:57 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

14:17:22 Sen. Ryan Lynch

14:17:45 Sen. Walt Sales

14:18:04 Sen. Mike Cuffe

14:18:24 Sen. Christopher Pope

14:19:05 Sen. Walt Sales

14:19:33 Sen. Janet Ellis

14:19:44 Sen. Walt Sales

14:19:55 Jason Mohr

14:19:14 **Motion:** Sen. Ellis

14:19:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

14:22:21

Committee Discussion:

14:22:20 Sen. Walt Sales

14:23:05 James Brown, Public Service Commission (PSC)

14:27:46 Jenifer Fielder, Public Service Commission (PSC)

14:31:25 Tony O'Donnell, Public Service Commission (PSC)

14:32:55 Sen. Walt Sales

14:33:10 James (Jim) Brown PSC

14:33:23 Hunter Camac

14:34:02 Annie Bukacek, Public Service Commission (PSC)

14:34:28 Sen. Walt Sales

14:34:38 James (Jim) Brown PSC

14:35:50 Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Equality (DEQ)

14:39:36 Sen. Brad Molnar

14:40:30 Chris Dorrington DEQ

14:41:26 Sen. Brad Molnar

14:41:38 Chris Dorrington DEQ

14:42:12 Sen. Walt Sales

14:42:27 Amanda Kaster, Department of Natural Resource and Conservation (DNRC)

14:43:32 Mike Freeman, Natural Resources Policy Advisor

14:44:24 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

14:45:19 Makenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

14:45:54 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance (MEBA)

14:46:34 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

14:47:06 Caroline Canarios, Northern Plains Resources Council (NPRC)

14:48:00 Sen. Walt Sales

14:48:06 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel joined the meeting.

14:50:08 Sen. Mike Cuffe

14:50:14 Jack Racicot

14:50:57 Jason Mohr

14:51:12 Sen. Brad Molnar
14:52:03 Jason Mohr
14:52:45 Sen. Brad Molnar
14:53:02 Sen. Janet Ellis
14:53:14 Jack Racicot
14:53:46 Sen. Walt Sales
14:53:50 Sen. Mike Cuffe
14:53:54 Sen. Walt Sales
14:25:55 [EXHIBIT\(230105ENSa2\)](#)
14:27:18 [EXHIBIT\(230105ENSa3\)](#)
14:32:23 [EXHIBIT\(230105ENSa4\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 14:54:10

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230105ENSaad\)](#)