

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on January 11, 2023 at 3:05 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling, 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:

SB 39 01/09/2023

SB 43 01/09/2023

SB 48 01/09/2023

Executive Action:

SB 48 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SB 39 - Revise permitting for incinerators**

**Opening Statement:**

15:06:00 Sen. Dan Bartel (R), SD 29, opened the hearing on SB 39, Revise permitting for incinerators.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:08:26 Sonja Nowakowski, Air Energy and Mining Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:14:56 Dave Galt, Montana Petroleum Association

15:16:22 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association

15:17:28 Brad Longcake, Montana Funeral Directors Association

15:18:45 Robert Thomas Grimes Jr., self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:21:05 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:28:00 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

15:31:33 Jennifer Swearingen, Montana's Against Toxic Burning

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:37:37 Sen. Barry Usher

15:39:35 Anne Hedges, MEIC

15:39:49 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:40:28 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

15:40:47 Julie Merkel, Permitting Supervisor, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:41:31 Sen. Willis Curdy

15:44:23 Julie Merkel, DEQ

15:44:55 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:45:40 Sen. Jason Small  
15:45:53 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ  
15:46:30 Sen. Jason Small  
15:46:53 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:49:16 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ  
15:49:38 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:50:21 Sponsor

**Closing Statement:**

15:50:45 Sen. Dan Bartel (R), SD 29, closed the hearing on SB 39.

**HEARING ON SB 48 - Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws**

**Opening Statement:**

15:51:50 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, opened the hearing on SB 48, Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:54:55 Amy Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
15:55:48 Becky Schlauch, Alcoholic Beverage Control Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:57:12 Sen. Barry Usher  
15:57:45 Amy Steinmetz, DEQ

**Closing Statement:**

15:58:14 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, closed the hearing on SB 48.

**HEARING ON SB 43 - Revise notice for certain timber sales**

**Opening Statement:**

15:59:00 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 98, opened the hearing on SB 43, Revise notice for certain timber sales.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:02:38 Jason Todhunter, Montana Logging Association

15:59:53 Dan Rogers, Trustlands Management Division, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

16:03:50 Richie Melby, Communications Director, Secretary of State

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:05:45 Sen. Bob Brown

16:06:28 Dan Rogers, DNRC

16:07:10 Sen. Bob Brown

**Closing Statement:**

16:07:46 Sen. Willis Curdy (D), SD 98, closed the hearing on SB 43.

**Discussion:**

16:09:44 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 48 - Repeal detachable metal beverage container opener laws**

16:11:25 **Motion:** Sen. Bob Brown moved that **SB 48 DO PASS.**

16:11:25 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:12:16

---

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230111NASaad\)](#)