

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

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on January 25, 2023 at 3:02 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: 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. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Jason Small (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Barry Usher (R)
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

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:

HB 54 01/20/2023

SB 55 01/19/2023

Executive Action:

SB 138 DO PASS

HB 54

HEARING ON HB 54 - Revise laws related to petroleum brownfields

Opening Statement:

15:04:13 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, opened the hearing on HB 54, Revise laws related to petroleum brownfields.

Proponent Testimony:

15:05:11 Amy Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

[EXHIBIT\(230125NASa1\)](#)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

15:08:36 Rep. Joe Read (R), HD 93, closed the hearing on HB 54.

HEARING ON SB 55 - Join Interstate Mining Compact Commission

Opening Statement:

15:10:21 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, opened the hearing on SB 55, Join Interstate Mining Compact Commission.

Proponent Testimony:

15:13:10 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:16:00 Tom Clarke, Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC)

15:26:54 Jon Sonju, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:27:48 Heather McDowell, Sibanye-Stillwater

15:29:33 John Johnson, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 400 (IUOE)

15:30:36 Bill Snoddy, self

15:39:30 Kyle Wendtland, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WY DEQ)

Opponent Testimony:

15:42:14 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Informational Center (MEIC)

[EXHIBIT\(230125NASa2\)](#)

15:47:40 Caroline Canarios, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)

15:48:59 Sen. Small has left

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:49:03 Sen. Bob Brown

15:49:33 Tom Clark, IMCC

15:54:03 Sen. Gillespie has left

15:54:34 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn joined the meeting.

15:56:37 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn

15:56:55 Chris Dorrington, Director of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

15:57:57 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:58:54 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

15:59:29 Sen. Barry Usher joined the meeting.

15:59:54 Chris Dorrington, DEQ

16:00:31 Sen. Barry Usher

16:01:04 Sen. Ryan Lynch

16:01:38 Sen. Steve Hinebauch-R

Closing Statement:

16:01:51 Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R), SD 18, closed the hearing on SB 55.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 138 - Provide for preservation of prescriptive easements on land acquired by state

16:04:03 **Motion:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie moved that **SB 138 DO PASS.**

16:04:03 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 54 - Revise laws related to petroleum brownfields

16:05:24 **Motion:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie moved that **HB 54 BE CONCURRED IN.**

16:05:24 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:05:24 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bob Brown

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:06:15

Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230125NASaad\)](#)