

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Mike Lang-R, on January 26, 2023 at 3:00 PM, in 335

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Mike Lang, Chair (R)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Susan Webber, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Dennis Lenz (R)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Daniel Salomon (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Dan Bartel (R)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)

**Staff Present:** Grace Gibney, Secretary  
Trevor Graff, Research Analyst  
Heather Vande-Sandt, Attorney

**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 85 01/24/2023  
SB 203 01/24/2023  
SR 28 01/24/2023

Executive Action:

SR 28 DO PASS

**HEARING ON SR 28 - Confirm governor's appointee for director of department of agriculture**

**Opening Statement:**

15:01:26 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SR 28, Confirm governor's appointee for director of department of agriculture.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:02:02 Kristen Juras, Lieutenant Governor, Governor Office

15:03:33 Kristi Clark, Department of Agriculture, (MDA)

15:07:40 Nathan Keane, Montana Grain Growers Association (MGGA)

15:08:33 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

[EXHIBIT\(230126AGSa1\)](#)

15:10:21 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

15:11:04 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGGA)

15:12:17 Jeff Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and WorldMontana

15:13:07 Curt Jensen, Self

15:14:30 Taylor Brown, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:16:04 Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie

15:16:24 Kristi Clark, MDA

15:18:32 Vice Chair Susan Webber

15:18:46 Kristi Clark, MDA

15:20:35 Sen. Shane Morigeau

15:20:38 Sen. Daniel Salomon

**Closing Statement:**

15:21:30 Chair Mike Lang (R), SD 17, closed the hearing on SR 28.

**HEARING ON HB 85 - Expand MEPA categorical exclusions**

**Opening Statement:**

15:22:08 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 85, Expand MEPA categorical exclusions.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:23:32 Kelly Motichka, Department Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

15:26:50 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)

15:27:56 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

15:28:57 Calli Michaels, Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:30:14 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:32:45 Katjana Stutzer, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:34:07 Sen. Daniel Salomon

15:35:26 Kelly Motichka, DNRC

15:35:44 Sen. Wendy McKamey

15:37:12 Kelly Motichka, DNRC  
15:38:35 Vice Chair Susan Webber  
15:40:57 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
15:41:01 Derf Johnson, MEIC  
15:42:44 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
15:42:56 Trevor Graff  
15:43:26 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
15:43:33 Kelly Motichka, DNRC  
15:46:05 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
15:46:18 Rep. Marty Malone-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:47:13 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 85.

**HEARING ON SB 203 - Revise law for transfer of critical infrastructure and agricultural land**

**Opening Statement:**

15:48:46 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, opened the hearing on SB 203, Revise law for transfer of critical infrastructure and agricultural land.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:51:14 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)  
15:52:36 Raylee Honeycutt, Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA)  
15:53:29 Shelby DeMars, United Property Owners of Montana (UPOM)  
15:55:27 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)  
15:57:59 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
15:58:24 Becky Stockton, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:59:28 Sen. Shane Morigeau  
16:00:05 Sen. Kenneth Bogner-R  
16:02:49 Sen. Wendy McKamey  
16:03:50 Sen. Kenneth Bogner-R  
16:04:37 Vice Chair Susan Webber  
16:05:45 Sen. Kenneth Bogner-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:06:12 Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19, closed the hearing on SB 203.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SR 28 - Confirm governor's appointee for director of department  
of agriculture**

16:08:34 **Motion:** Vice Chair Bruce Gillespie moved that **SR 28 DO PASS.**  
19:01:51 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:10:10

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230126AGSaad\)](#)