

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE**

**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON (S) ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Walt Sales-R, on January 31, 2023 at 3:20 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. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (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:

SB 109 01/26/2023

SB 208 01/26/2023

HB 170 01/26/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON SB 109 - Revise laws related to redistricting the PSC**

**Opening Statement:**

15:21:48 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, opened the hearing on SB 109, Revise laws related to redistricting the PSC.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:22:21 Sen. Keith Regier (R), SD 3, closed the hearing on SB 109.

**HEARING ON SB 208 - Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices**

**Opening Statement:**

15:23:16 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 208, Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:24:17 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana-Dakota Utilities Resources (MDU)

15:25:57 Sen. Brad Molnar joined the meeting.

15:26:25 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association (MRA)

15:27:42 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

15:28:23 Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties (MACo)

15:29:13 Dwight Rose, IBEW Local 44 (IBEW44)

15:30:10 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

15:31:09 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)

15:31:40 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

15:33:09 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

15:33:40 Luke Hoffer, IBEW Local 233 (IBEW233)

15:34:07 Corey Shaw, Montana Building Industry Association (MBIA)

15:34:30 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCOC)

15:34:49 Adam Haight, Laborers Local 1686 (LL1686)

15:35:00 Al Ekblad, Local 400 Operating Engineers (IUOE400)

15:35:44 Brad Longcake, Montana Petroleum Marketers Association (MPMCSA)

15:50:14 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov left the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:36:47 Eric Bryson, Montana Association Counties (MACo)

15:37:47 Ross Butcher, Fergus County Commissioner (FCC)

15:39:11 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

15:40:05 Sen. Brad Molnar left the meeting.

15:42:35 Makenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

15:44:11 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:45:11 Sen. Christopher Pope  
15:45:38 Sen. Jason Small-R  
15:45:49 Sen. Denise Hayman  
15:47:08 Sen. Brad Molnar joined the meeting.  
15:48:19 Eric Bryson, MACo  
15:49:24 Sen. Walt Sales  
15:49:33 Sen. Janet Ellis  
15:49:36 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

15:50:02 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 208.

**HEARING ON HB 170 - Repeal state energy policy**

**Opening Statement:**

15:51:17 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 170, Repeal state energy policy.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:52:27 Michael Freeman, Montana Governor's Office  
15:56:31 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:22:56  
15:58:19 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)  
15:59:48 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe  
16:00:21 Sidney Burguss, Self  
16:01:43 Becky Piske, Self  
16:02:54 Robyn Morrison, Montana League of Women Voters (LWV)

16:05:18 Katherine Elam, Forward Montana (FM)

16:07:14 Craig McClure, Self

16:08:34 Sen. Keith Regier left the meeting.

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:09:04 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:13:27 Michael Freeman, Governor Office

16:15:04 Sen. Ryan Lynch

16:15:45 Michael Freeman, Governor Office

16:17:00 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:19:28 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:19:40 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel

16:20:20 Alan Olson, MPA

16:20:35 Sen. Walt Sales

16:20:59 Rep. Steve Gunderson-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:21:35 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 170.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:25:14

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Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230131ENSaad\)](#)