

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on February 07, 2023 at 3:20 PM, in 317

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Walt Sales, Chair (R)
Sen. Jason Small, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
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:

HB 52 02/02/2023

SB 228 02/02/2023

HB 19 02/02/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 19 - Revising laws related to Indian affairs and economic development

Opening Statement:

15:22:05 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opened the hearing on HB 19, Revising laws related to Indian affairs and economic development.

Proponent Testimony:

15:25:40 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

15:26:52 Liane Taylor, Montana Department of Commerce (MDC)

15:29:07 Jade Bahr, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

15:31:24 Vice Chair Jason Small

15:31:39 Liane Taylor, MDC

15:31:48 Sen. Keith Regier

15:32:13 Liane Taylor, MDC

15:33:23 Sen. Denise Hayman

15:35:42 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D

15:36:59 Chair Walt Sales

15:38:24 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf-D

Closing Statement:

15:39:38 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, closed the hearing on HB 19.

HEARING ON HB 52 - Revising common carrier regulation

Opening Statement:

15:41:14 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 52, Revising common carrier regulation.

Proponent Testimony:

15:45:50 James (Jim) Brown, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:48:03 Vice Chair Ryan Lynch joined the meeting.

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:49:13 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee:

15:49:48 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel

15:50:16 Rep. Katie Zolnikov-R

15:50:53 Chair Walt Sales

Closing Statement:

15:51:44 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 52.

HEARING ON SB 228 - Prohibit local governments from banning petroleum fuels

Opening Statement:

15:52:17 Vice Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 228, Prohibit local governments from banning petroleum fuels.

Discussion:

15:52:52 Sen. Brad Molnar joined the meeting.

15:53:29 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov left the meeting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:53:46 Allan Olson, Public Service Commission (PSC)
15:55:09 Dwight Rose, Local 44
15:55:49 Shelby Dmars, Montana Oil, Gas and Coal Counties (MACo)
15:56:34 Sam Sill, Montana Association of Realtor (MAR)
15:57:20 Sheridan Johnson, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)
15:57:51 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Opponent Testimony:

15:58:53 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center, (MEIC)
16:02:59 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
[EXHIBIT\(230207ENSa1\)](#)
16:04:12 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
[EXHIBIT\(230207ENSa2\)](#)
16:06:42 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon (MA)
16:08:50 Katherine Elam, Forward Montana (FM)
16:10:11 Kirk Panasuk, N/A
16:11:42 Terry Punt, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
16:13:27 Caitlin Piserchia, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club (MCSC)
16:16:00 Steve Krum, N/A

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:18:05 Vice Chair Ryan Lynch
16:20:42 Sam Sill, MAR
16:21:30 Sen. Denise Hayman

16:22:49 Anne Hedges, MEIC
16:23:59 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:25:19 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:25:37 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel
16:26:33 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe
16:27:23 Sen. Christopher Pope
16:33:52 Sen. Jason Small-R

Closing Statement:

16:34:50 Vice Chair Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 228.

16:35:22 **Committee Discussion:** Mercatus Center Broadband Solutions

16:35:22 Chair Walt Sales

16:35:46 Jack Racicot

16:35:49 [EXHIBIT\(230207ENSa3\)](#)

16:35:50 [EXHIBIT\(230207ENSa4\)](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:36:52

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230207ENSaad\)](#)