

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

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Walt Sales-R, on February 14, 2023 at 2:43 PM, in 317

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Walt Sales, Chair (R)
Sen. Ryan Lynch, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
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. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Jason Small (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 255 02/10/2023

SJ 10 02/10/2023

Executive Action:

HB 170

HB 19

HB 52

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 170 - Repeal state energy policy

09:17:08 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 170 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:04:45 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:06:35 Sen. Ryan Lynch

09:17:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 4 by voice vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Pope, voting no.
Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, By Proxy

09:17:08 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

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

15:01:06 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 19 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

15:01:19 Sen. Jason Small

15:01:06 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:01:06 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 52 - Revising common carrier regulation

15:03:39 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 52 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:03:39 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:03:39 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

HEARING ON SB 255 - Revising electric vehicle charging station laws

Opening Statement:

15:10:28 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, opened the hearing on SB 255, Revising electric vehicle charging station laws.

Discussion:

14:45:18 Recessed

14:58:32 Sen. Small has arrived

15:00:50 Reconvened

15:10:49 Sen. Lynch has left

[EXHIBIT\(230214ENSa1\)](#)

Proponent Testimony:

15:19:20 Makenna Sellers, North West Energy Association (NWEA)

15:20:54 Diego Rivas, NorthWest Energy Coalition (NWECC)

15:22:19 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Opponent Testimony:

15:23:30 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:24:28 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

15:24:52 James Pollard, Montana Consumer Council (MCC)

15:25:15 Dan Lloyd, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:26:01 Sen. Keith Regier

15:26:30 Sen. Christopher Pope-D

15:27:35 Sen. Keith Regier

15:28:09 David Hoffman, NWE

15:28:23 Sen. Jason Small

15:29:08 Will Rosquist, PSC

15:29:25 Sen. Jason Small
15:29:40 David Hoffman, NWE
15:29:54 Sen. Keith Regier
15:30:31 Will Rosquist, PSC
15:30:49 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.
15:31:00 Sen. Walt Sales
15:31:34 Diego Rivas, NWE
15:33:11 Sen. Walt Sales
15:36:48 Sen. Christopher Pope-D
15:37:57 Sen. Brad Molnar
15:40:54 Sen. Christopher Pope-D
15:42:06 Sen. Keith Regier
15:44:34 Sen. Christopher Pope-D

Closing Statement:

15:45:13 Sen. Christopher Pope (D), SD 65, closed the hearing on SB 255.

Discussion:

15:27:16 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.

HEARING ON SJ 10 - Resolution against removal of Snake River dams

Opening Statement:

15:47:03 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on SJ 10, Resolution against removal of Snake River dams.

Proponent Testimony:

15:51:50 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

[EXHIBIT\(230214ENSa2\)](#)

15:56:34 Sen. Ryan Lynch left the meeting.

15:56:42 Sen. Jason Small left the meeting.

15:58:26 Katie Pfennigs, Flathead Electric Cooperative (FEC)
[EXHIBIT\(230214ENSa3\)](#)

16:05:46 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

16:06:31 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

16:07:59 Mike Murphy, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)

16:08:16 Sen. Jason Small joined the meeting.

16:09:44 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)

16:10:45 Dylan Davidson, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF)

Opponent Testimony:

16:11:56 Diego Rivas, Montana NorthWest Energy Coalition (MNWEC)
[EXHIBIT\(230214ENSa4\)](#)

16:20:52 Sen. Jason Small left the meeting.

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:21:35 Sen. Keith Regier

16:23:01 Sen. Mike Cuffe-R

Closing Statement:

16:23:28 Sen. Mike Cuffe (R), SD 1, closed the hearing on SJ 10.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:25:28

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230214ENSaad\)](#)