

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Sen. Jeffrey Welborn-R, on February 22, 2023 at 2:56 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)  
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)  
Sen. Pat Flowers (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Mike Lang (R)  
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Cy Walsh, 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 426 02/21/2023

Executive Action:

SB 274 DO PASS

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 274 - Revising major facility siting act decision requirements**

14:57:53        **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **SB 274 DO PASS.**

14:57:53        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**HEARING ON SB 426 - Revising the definition of natural gas**

**Opening Statement:**

15:00:21        Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 426, Revising the definition of natural gas.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:03:09        Shelby DeMars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

15:04:55        Sen. Mike Lang joined the meeting.

15:05:55        Larry Hendrickson, Commissioner of Liberty County

15:06:52        Richard Dunbar, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

15:07:39        Roy Rost, Montana Association of Oil, Gas, and Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:08:41        Sen. Bob Brown

15:09:12        Shelby DeMars, MAOGCC

15:09:24        Sen. Walt Sales

15:09:34        Sen. Jason Small-R

15:09:58        Sen. Barry Usher

15:10:11        Shelby DeMars, MAOGCC

15:10:49 Sen. Barry Usher  
15:11:08 Sen. Jason Small-R  
15:11:25 Sen. Pat Flowers  
15:12:00 Sen. Jason Small-R  
15:12:24 Sen. Jeffrey Welborn  
15:13:15 Sen. Jason Small-R  
15:14:04 Shelby DeMars, MAOGCC  
15:14:50 Sen. Walt Sales  
15:15:12 Shelby DeMars, MAOGCC  
15:16:53 Sen. Willis Curdy  
15:17:15 Shelby DeMars, MAOGCC

**Closing Statement:**

15:19:45 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 426.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:20:45

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Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents [EXHIBIT\(230222NASaad\)](#):