

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE

68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (S) ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Sen. Walt Sales-R, on February 23, 2023 at 3:31 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. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Denise Hayman (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. Steve Fitzpatrick (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 353 02/18/2023

SB 387 02/18/2023

SB 398 02/22/2023

Executive Action:

SB 208 DO PASS

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 208 - Prohibit local governments from banning or limiting energy choices

15:32:18 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **SB 208 TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE.**

15:32:30 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **SB 208 DO PASS.**

Discussion:

15:33:46 Sen. Ryan Lynch

15:34:00 Sen. Jason Small

15:34:11 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:34:37 Sen. Brad Molnar

15:35:07 Sen. Jason Small

15:35:23 Sen. Brad Molnar

15:35:34 Sen. Jason Small

15:35:45 Sen. Denise Hayman

15:35:51 Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick joined the meeting.

15:37:18 Sen. Keith Regier

15:37:32 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

15:37:38 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.

15:32:30 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 5 by roll call vote with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Molnar, Sen. Pope, voting no.

HEARING ON SB 353 - Revising transmission rights of refusal

Opening Statement:

15:40:21 Sen. Walt Sales (R), SD 69, opened the hearing on SB 353, Revising transmission rights of refusal.

Proponent Testimony:

15:42:57 Chris Puyear, North Western Energy (NWE)
[EXHIBIT\(230223ENSa1\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230223ENSa2\)](#)

15:51:56 Dwight Rose, IBEW Local 44

15:53:37 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO (MTAFL-CIO)

15:54:39 David Smith, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

15:55:47 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperative Association (MECA)

15:56:15 Peggy Trenks, Treasure State Resource Association (TSRA)

15:57:26 Doug Kusyk, MATL LLP

16:00:26 Mike Cashell, North Western Energy (NWE)

Opponent Testimony:

15:39:33 Sen. Fitzpatrick has left

15:40:35 Sen. Small has left

16:02:28 Robin Arnold, Renewable North West (RNW)

16:05:41 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

16:10:26 Bruce Spencer, Montana Energy Business Alliance (MEBA)

16:12:40 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:14:11 Sharon K. Segner, LS Power

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

16:29:14 Sen. Keith Regier

16:30:13 Chris Puyear, NWE

16:30:24 Sen. Keith Regier

16:30:38 Bruce Spencer, MEBA

16:31:40 Sen. Christopher Pope
16:31:56 Sen. Mike Cuffe joined the meeting.
16:37:09 Chris Puyear, NWE
16:37:38 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
16:38:30 Robin Arnold, RNW
16:39:34 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
16:42:48 Sharon K. Segner, LS Power
16:47:37 Sen. Denise Hayman
16:49:00 Robin Arnold, RNW
16:49:41 Sen. Brad Molnar
16:55:12 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov left the meeting.
16:56:37 Chris Puyear, NWE

Closing Statement:

16:58:35 Sen. Walt Sales (R), SD 69, closed the hearing on SB 353.

HEARING ON SB 398 - Establish a Montana coordinate system for property

Opening Statement:

17:01:23 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, opened the hearing on SB 398, Establish a Montana coordinate system for property.

Proponent Testimony:

17:03:46 Jamie Reed, Montana Association Registered of Land Surveyors (MARLS)
17:07:30 Erin Fashoway, Montana State Library (MSL)
17:09:05 Matthew Morris, N/A

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 17:10:40 Ryan Dahlke, Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
- 17:12:29 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov joined the meeting.
- 17:12:38 Brian Shaw, National Geodetic Survey (NGS)

Questions from Committee:

- 17:13:25 Sen. Keith Regier
- 17:14:27 Erin Fashoway, MSL

Closing Statement:

- 17:14:48 Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R), SD 9, closed the hearing on SB 398.

HEARING ON SB 387 - Revise laws related to coal, coal tax, and coal-fired unit remediation

Opening Statement:

- 17:15:34 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 387, Revise laws related to coal, coal tax, and coal-fired unit remediation.

Proponent Testimony:

- 17:24:55 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Opponent Testimony:

- 17:30:25 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCoC)
- 17:32:11 George Harris, Montana Coal Council (MCC)
- 17:34:14 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)
- 17:35:34 David Hoffman, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
- 17:37:01 Jessie Luther, Talen Montana
- 17:39:13 Mark Baker, Puget Sound Energy (PSE)
- 17:40:55 Aimee Grmoljez, AVSTA
- 17:43:44 Shane Scanlon, Portland General Electric (PGE)

17:44:39 Charles Denowh, Pacific Corp

17:45:28 Bob Gilbert, Colstrip and Rosebud County

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:47:06 Amiee Steinmetz, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

17:47:56 Dan Lloyd, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

17:48:24 Sen. Keith Regier

17:48:52 David Hoffman (NWE)

17:49:00 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

17:50:44 David Hoffman (NWE)

17:51:21 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

17:54:03 Sen. Keith Regier left the meeting.

17:54:21 Sen. Brad Molnar-R

17:55:02 Sen. Mike Cuffe left the meeting.

17:56:08 Sen. Ryan Lynch

17:56:57 Sen. Brad Molnar-R

17:57:46 Sen. Ryan Lynch

17:57:55 David Hoffman (NWE)

Closing Statement:

17:58:33 Sen. Brad Molnar (R), SD 28, closed the hearing on SB 387.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:02:55

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230223ENSaad\)](#)