

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 16, 2023 at 3:02 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. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

Members Excused: 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:

HB 558 03/14/2023

Executive Action:

15:21:46 Sen. Regier has left

HEARING ON HB 558 - Revising PSC deposition laws

Opening Statement:

15:02:59 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 558, Revising PSC deposition laws.

Proponent Testimony:

15:04:41 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

Opponent Testimony:

15:09:02 Monica Tranel, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230316ENSb1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230316ENSb2\)](#)

15:13:18 Monica Tranel, Self

[EXHIBIT\(230316ENSb3\)](#)

15:17:51 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:19:35 Lucas Hamilton, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee:

15:20:00 Sen. Denise Hayman

15:21:15 Lucas Hamilton, PSC

15:22:04 Sen. Denise Hayman

15:22:19 Monica Tranel, Self

15:24:54 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

15:31:09 Lucas Hamilton, PSC

15:32:22 Sen. Brad Molnar

15:34:10 Lucas Hamilton, PSC
15:34:49 Sen. Brad Molnar
15:35:24 Rep. Steven Galloway-R
15:39:22 Sen. Brad Molnar
15:41:40 Chris Puyear, NWE
15:42:40 Sen. Christopher Pope
15:45:52 Lucas Hamilton, PSC
15:46:04 Sen. Christopher Pope
15:48:54 Chris Puyear, NWE
15:49:43 Sen. Christopher Pope
15:49:49 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
15:50:37 Monica Tranel, Self

Closing Statement:

15:53:54 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 558.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:57:47

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230316ENSbad\)](#)