

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 20, 2023 at 2:59 PM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

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

**Members Excused:** Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)  
Sen. Shane Morigeau (D)  
Sen. Jason Small (R)  
Sen. Jeffrey Welborn (R)

**Staff Present:** Jason Mohr, Research Analyst  
Jacelyn Sterling, 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 795 03/15/2023

HJ 7 03/15/2023

HJ 11 03/15/2023

Executive Action:

HJ 11

HJ 7

HB 34

HB 114

HB 343

HB 795

15:02:15 Vice Chair Morigeau has arrived

**HEARING ON HJ 11 - Joint resolution relating to Environmental, Social, and Governmental regulation**

**Opening Statement:**

15:00:55 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HJ 11, Joint resolution relating to Environmental, Social, and Governmental regulation.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:04:40 Aimee Grmoljez, Montana Bankers Association

15:08:21 Charles Robison, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

15:08:44 Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:10:06 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:10:47 Charles Robinson, MCC

**Closing Statement:**

15:11:53 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HJ 11.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 11 - Joint resolution relating to Environmental, Social, and Governmental regulation**

15:16:10 **Motion:** Sen. Barry Usher moved that **HJ 11 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:17:15 Sen. Pat Flowers

15:17:47 Sen. Mike Lang

15:16:10 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 3 by voice vote with Sen. Flowers, Sen. Lynch, Sen. Morigeau, voting no.  
Sen. Lynch, By Proxy

15:16:10 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Barry Usher

15:19:25 **Recessed**

15:22:12 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HJ 7 - Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary**

**Opening Statement:**

15:22:32 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HJ 7, Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:23:41 Bruce Becker, Livingston Roundup Association

[EXHIBIT\(230320NASa1\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

15:25:34 Sen. Mike Lang

15:26:13 Rep. Marty Malone-R

15:26:29 Vice Chair Walt Sales

15:26:30 Chair Jeffrey Welborn joined the meeting.

15:26:36 Rep. Marty Malone-R

**Closing Statement:**

15:26:48 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HJ 7.

**HEARING ON HB 795 - Exempt Commerce, Coal Boards grants from MEPA**

**Opening Statement:**

15:27:52 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, opened the hearing on HB 795, Exempt Commerce, Coal Boards grants from MEPA.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:30:16 Renee Lemon, Montana Department of Commerce  
15:30:54 George Harris, Montana Coal Council  
15:32:05 Jason Rittal, Montana Association of Counties, on behalf of Kelly Lynch  
15:33:04 Representative Steve Gist

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:34:40 Rep. Paul Tuss (D), HD 28, closed the hearing on HB 795.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 7 - Resolution on Livingston roundup association 100th anniversary**

15:41:12 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HJ 7 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:41:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:41:12 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. John Esp

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 34 - Exempt certain DNRC grants from MEPA**

15:42:00 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 34 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:42:00 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:42:00 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Dan Bartel

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 114 - Revise timelines for water right permit and change process**

15:43:48 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 114 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:43:48 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:43:48 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 343 - Generally revise library geospatial and natural resource information laws**

15:44:50 **Motion:** Sen. Walt Sales moved that **HB 343 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:44:50 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:44:50 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 795 - Exempt Commerce, Coal Boards grants from MEPA**

15:46:18 **Motion:** Sen. Shane Morigeau moved that **HB 795 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:46:18 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:46:18 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Lang

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 15:47:11

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230320NASaad\)](#)