

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 24, 2023 at 3:07 PM, in 303

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, Chair (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Walt Sales, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Bob Brown (R)
Sen. Willis Curdy (D)
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)
Sen. Mike Lang (R)
Sen. Jason Small (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Pat Flowers (D)
Sen. Ryan Lynch (D)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

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:

HB 460 03/15/2023

HB 561 03/15/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 460 - Revise transfer of hard rock mining permits

Opening Statement:

15:08:09 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, opened the hearing on HB 460, Revise transfer of hard rock mining permits.

Proponent Testimony:

15:10:54 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:12:08 Sen. Jason Small left the meeting.

15:13:20 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

15:14:00 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:14:52 Dan Walsh, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:15:27 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

15:15:56 Dan Walsh, DEQ

Closing Statement:

15:16:26 Rep. Steve Gunderson (R), HD 1, closed the hearing on HB 460.

HEARING ON HB 561 - Revise water discharge permitting

Opening Statement:

15:20:05 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, opened the hearing on HB 561, Revise water discharge permitting.

Proponent Testimony:

15:22:21 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

15:24:10 Dave Galt, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

15:24:29 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

Opponent Testimony:

15:25:36 Molly Bell, Montana Conservation Voters (MCV)
15:27:04 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
15:31:06 Caitlin Piserchia, Sierra Club (SC)

Informational Witness Testimony:

15:33:02 Sen. Pat Flowers joined the meeting.
15:33:08 Eric Sivers, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee:

15:33:37 Sen. Bob Brown
15:34:27 Eric Sivers, DEQ
15:34:51 Matt Vincent, MMA
15:35:12 Sen. Mike Lang
15:35:32 Matt Vincent, MMA
15:36:45 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:37:22 Derf Johnson, MEIC
15:38:29 Sen. Willis Curdy
15:39:11 Eric Sivers, DEQ
15:40:12 Sen. Bruce Gillespie
15:40:52 Derf Johnson, MEIC
15:42:13 Sen. Bob Brown
15:42:53 Eric Sivers, DEQ
15:43:08 Vice Chair Walt Sales
15:43:44 Eric Sivers, DEQ
15:46:05 Sen. Pat Flowers
15:46:29 Eric Sivers, DEQ

15:47:31 Chair Jeffrey Welborn

15:47:51 Vice Chair Walt Sales

Closing Statement:

15:48:36 Rep. Marty Malone (R), HD 59, closed the hearing on HB 561.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 15:49:59

Cy Walsh, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230324NASaad\)](#)