

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

Call to Order: Chair Walt Sales-R, on March 28, 2023 at 3:16 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. Christopher Pope (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (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 284 03/24/2023

HJ 6 03/24/2023

Executive Action:

HEARING ON HB 284 - Revise laws related to approval of electricity supply resources

Opening Statement:

15:18:18 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R), HD 37, opened the hearing on HB 284, Revise laws related to approval of electricity supply resources.

Proponent Testimony:

15:20:47 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa1\)](#)

15:31:47 Shannon Heim, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

15:36:06 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

15:41:06 Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley Fleck (CF) Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)

15:47:40 Dwight Rose, IBEW 44

15:49:39 Allison Corbyn, Big Sky Economic Development Association (BSEDA)

15:50:45 Adam Haight, Laborers 1686

15:51:16 Shelby Demars, Montana Association of Oil Gas & Coal Counties (MAOGCC)

15:52:43 Charles Robison, Montana Chambers of Commerce (MCC)

15:53:15 Brian Thompson, Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

15:53:52 Amanda Frickle, Montana AFL-CIO

15:55:12 Rebecca Meyers, Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA)

15:57:19 Luke Hoffer, IBEW 233

15:58:18 Jim Atchison, SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC)

15:59:29 Chris Anderson, Sun Mountain Lumber (SML)

16:00:36 Mike Schmitt, self

16:03:08 Ryan Pirnat, self

16:05:12 Dale Mahugh, self

Opponent Testimony:

- 16:07:06 Monica Tranel, self
[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa2\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa3\)](#)
[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa4\)](#)
- 16:15:10 Roger Koopman, self
[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa5\)](#)
- 16:35:39 Tom Tosdal, Walker & Huseth Attorney
[EXHIBIT\(230328ENSa6\)](#)
- 16:46:17 Roxa Reller, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)
- 16:48:30 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
- 16:51:19 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC)
- 16:54:25 Winona Rachel, self
- 16:55:44 Caitlin Piserchia, Montana Chapter of The Sierra Club

Informational Witness Testimony:

- 16:57:46 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee:

- 16:59:08 Vice Chair Jason Small
- 16:59:30 Chris Puyear, NWE
- 17:00:31 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel
- 17:02:27 Chris Puyear, NWE
- 17:02:50 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov
- 17:03:37 Chris Puyear, NWE
- 17:05:06 Sen. Christopher Pope
- 17:12:30 Jason Brown, MCC

17:12:40 Sen. Denise Hayman
17:16:38 Jason Brown, MCC
17:17:48 Vice Chair Jason Small
17:18:10 Aimee Grmoljez, CF, MDU

Closing Statement:

17:20:03 Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R), HD 37, closed the hearing on HB 284.

HEARING ON HJ 6 - Interim study of electric power reserves

Opening Statement:

17:27:06 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HJ 6, Interim study of electric power reserves.

Proponent Testimony:

17:30:08 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association (MECA)
17:38:23 Mark Hayden, Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC)
17:40:38 Chris Puyear, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
17:43:35 Aimee Grmoljez, Crowley Fleck, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
17:43:57 Doug Hardy, Montana Cooperates' Association (MCA)
17:46:25 Will Rosquist, Montana Public Service Commission (PSC)
17:47:04 Caitlin Piserchia, Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club (MCSC)

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

17:50:41 Michael Normandeau, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)
17:51:20 Kate Wilson, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Questions from Committee:

17:52:01 Sen. Brad Molnar
17:53:22 Doug Hardy, MCA
17:55:51 Sen. Christopher Pope
17:56:32 Doug Hardy, MCA

Closing Statement:

17:58:50 Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HJ 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 18:00:07

Jack Racicot, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230328ENSaad\)](#)