

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Greg Hertz-R, on March 28, 2023 at 8:03 AM, in 405

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Greg Hertz, Chair (R)  
Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Becky Beard (R)  
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)  
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)  
Sen. Wendy McKamey (R)  
Sen. Brad Molnar (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Sen. Shannon O'Brien (D)

**Staff Present:** Jaret Coles, Research Analyst  
Lorna Mason, 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 522 03/25/2023

SB 532 03/25/2023

SB 537 03/25/2023

SB 540 03/25/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON SB 532 - Revise regulation and taxation of large emission sources**

**Opening Statement:**

08:05:00 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 42, opened the hearing on SB 532, Revise regulation and taxation of large emission sources.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:09:49 Patrick Yachawich, Blackfeet Tribe

08:11:39 Heidi Harding-Rex, self

08:14:16 Mark Mackin, self

08:17:57 Katherine Elam, Forward Montana

08:19:42 Matthew Passini, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Opponent Testimony:**

08:22:42 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MonTax)

[EXHIBIT\(230328TASa1\)](#)

08:26:51 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

08:28:52 Allen Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

08:30:43 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

08:34:07 Jason Lay, Department of Revenue (DOR)

08:34:10 Jared Isom, Department of Revenue (DOR)

08:34:15 Sonja Nowakowski, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee:**

08:34:30 Sen. Denise Hayman

08:34:39 Bob Story, MonTax

08:36:15 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

08:37:26 Sen. Brad Molnar

08:39:12 Jason Lay, DOR  
08:39:53 Sonja Nowakowski, DE  
08:40:19 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty joined the meeting.  
08:41:41 Jason Lay, DOR  
08:42:41 Sen. Brad Molnar

**Closing Statement:**

08:46:46 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D), SD 42, closed the hearing on SB 532.

**HEARING ON SB 522 - Provide hotels with grants to shelter victims of violence and human trafficking**

**Opening Statement:**

08:50:32 Vice Chair Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 522, Provide hotels with grants to shelter victims of violence and human trafficking.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:54:44 Patrick Yakawich, Blackfeet Tribe  
08:55:45 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association (MLHA)  
08:57:04 Bob Story, Montana Taxpayer's Association (MonTax)  
08:57:40 Melissa Mitton, American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:00:19 Kelsen Young, Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCADSV)

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:03:47 Jessie Counts, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
09:04:06 Jennifer Pelej, Department of Commerce (COMMERCE)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:05:06 Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty  
09:05:17 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov-R

09:05:52 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
09:06:04 Jennifer Pelej, COMMERCE  
09:07:46 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
09:07:53 Kelsen Young, MCADSV  
09:09:45 Sen. Wendy McKamey  
09:09:53 Jesse Counts, DHHS

**Closing Statement:**

09:11:22 Vice Chair Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 522.

**HEARING ON SB 540 - Revise allowable state-funded tourism promotion laws**

**Opening Statement:**

09:13:17 Vice Chair Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, opened the hearing on SB 540, Revise allowable state-funded tourism promotion laws.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:22:19 Stuart Doggett, Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association (MLTA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:26:46 Racine Friede, Tourism Matters

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

09:28:23 Scott Osterman, Department of Commerce (COMMERCE)

09:28:47 Jennifer Pelej, Department of Commerce (COMMERCE)

**Questions from Committee:**

09:29:35 Sen. Denise Hayman  
09:29:42 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov-R  
09:33:40 Sen. Brad Molnar  
09:37:58 Scott Osterman, COMMERCE  
09:38:47 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

09:39:10 Scott Osterman, COMMERCE

09:42:33 Sen. Wendy McKamey

09:43:41 Scott Osterman, COMMERCE

**Closing Statement:**

09:46:46 Vice Chair Daniel Zolnikov (R), SD 45, closed the hearing on SB 540.

**HEARING ON SB 537 - Provide tax incentives for the sale of Montana-produced food**

**Opening Statement:**

09:53:55 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, opened the hearing on SB 537, Provide tax incentives for the sale of Montana-produced food.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:56:39 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[EXHIBIT\(230328TASa2\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230328TASa3\)](#)

09:58:45 Patick Yakawich, Blackfeet Tribe

09:59:51 Carissa McNamara, self

10:02:12 Jan Tusick, Mission Mountain Food Enterprise Center

10:03:50 Steve Charter, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:09:28 David Merrien, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:10:16 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

10:10:52 Jaret Coles

[EXHIBIT\(230328TASa4\)](#)

10:11:52 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell  
10:12:05 Rachel Prevost, MFU  
10:13:38 Chair Greg Hertz  
10:13:50 David Merrien, DOR  
10:14:23 Rachel Prevost, MFU  
10:15:12 Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel  
10:15:32 Chair Greg Hertz  
10:16:58 Sen. Becky Beard  
10:17:04 Rachel Prevost, MFU  
10:18:25 Sen. Wendy McKamey  
10:18:34 Rachel Prevost, MFU

**Closing Statement:**

10:19:10 Sen. Jason Small (R), SD 21, closed the hearing on SB 537.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:52:45

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

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