

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### 68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON FREE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HB 576

**Call to Order:** Chair Barry Usher-R, on April 25, 2023 at 4:00 PM, in 350

#### ROLL CALL

**Members Present:** Sen. Barry Usher, Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell (D)  
Rep. Rhonda Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Marilyn Marler (D)  
Rep. Gary Parry (R)  
Sen. Jason Small (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:

Executive Action:

HB 576 BILL IS AMENDED AS  
FOLLOWS

16:01:18 **Committee Discussion:** HB576

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 576 - Revise laws related to water and coal mining**

16:01:27 **Motion:** Sen. Jason Small moved that **HB 576 ACCEPTED AS AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:01:40 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

16:02:17 **Motion:** Rep. Rhonda Knudsen moved that **HB 576 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:04:07 Chair Barry Usher

16:04:21 Darryl James, West Morland Mining

16:05:50 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center

16:08:11 George Harris, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

16:08:46 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

16:09:06 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:10:15 Jason Mohr

16:10:26 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:11:14 Jason Mohr

16:11:28 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:11:45 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

16:12:32 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:12:56 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

16:13:07 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:13:42 Chair Barry Usher

16:14:31 Rep. Gary Parry

16:16:59 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:17:43 Rep. Gary Parry

16:18:14 Chair Barry Usher

16:18:18 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:18:49 **Motion:** Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell moved that **HB 576 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

16:19:18 Rep. Gary Parry

16:19:20 Chair Barry Usher

16:19:35 Rep. Gary Parry

16:20:25 Rep. Rhonda Knudsen

16:21:14 Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell

16:21:38 Chair Barry Usher

16:21:50 Rep. Marilyn Marler

16:18:49 **Vote:** Motion failed 4 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Marler, Sen. Dunwell, voting yes.

16:22:43 **Motion:** Chair Barry Usher moved that **HB 576 BE AMENDED.**

16:22:43 **Vote:** Motion carried 4 - 2 by roll call vote with Rep. Marler, Sen. Dunwell, voting no.

16:23:31 **Motion:** Chair Barry Usher moved that **HB 576 BILL IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS.**

16:23:31 **Vote:** Motion carried 4 - 2 by voice vote with Rep. Marler, Sen. Dunwell, voting no.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 16:23:52

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Jacelyn Sterling, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230425FRSaad\)](#)