

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

**Call to Order:** Chair Keith Regier-R, on April 26, 2023 at 8:59 AM, in 303

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Keith Regier, Chair (R)  
Sen. Jen Gross, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Barry Usher, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Bob Brown (R)  
Sen. Daniel Emrich (R)  
Sen. Chris Friedel (R)  
Sen. Steve Hinebauch (R)  
Sen. Theresa Manzella (R)  
Sen. Andrea Olsen (D)  
Sen. Susan Webber (D)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Kathy Kelker (D)

**Staff Present:** Julianne Burkhardt, Attorney  
Grace Gibney, 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 971 04/25/2023

Executive Action:

HB 971

**HEARING ON HB 971 - Revise environmental policy act**

**Opening Statement:**

09:01:23 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, opened the hearing on HB 971, Revise environmental policy act.

**Proponent Testimony:**

09:02:47 Steve Wade, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC), Billings Chamber of Commerce (BCC), Montana Contractors Association (MCA)

09:04:22 Leo Barry, self

09:06:36 Matt Vincent, Montana Mining Association (MMA)

09:08:33 Alan Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

09:10:15 Peggy Trenk, Treasure State Resources Association (TSRA)

09:12:06 Henry Kriegel, Americans For Prosperity (AFP)

09:12:51 Darryl James, Montana Infrastructure Coalition (MIC)

09:14:43 Dwight Rose, IBEW 44

09:15:15 Adam Haight, Laborers 1686

09:15:52 Clint Penny, Laborers 1686

09:16:12 John Forken, Montana State Building Trades Counsel

09:16:38 Tom Tanner, Ironworkers International

09:16:59 Chad Swenson, Ironworkers International

**Opponent Testimony:**

09:18:17 Richard Thweatt, self

09:19:32 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

09:21:40 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe of Montana

09:23:08 Phyllis Dorrington, self

09:24:32 Robin Turner, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana (ACLUMT)

09:24:55 Senator Mary Ann Dunwell, self

09:27:12 Gayle Joslin, Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame

09:29:04 Joan Kresich, self

09:31:16 Jim Sawyer, self

09:33:13 Caitlin Perschia, Montana Sierra Club

09:35:28 Hal Schmid, self

09:37:27 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon Society

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09:40:21 Colleen Hinds, self

09:41:13 Gary Matson, self

09:42:13 Linda Healow, self

09:43:27 Steve Krum, self

09:45:07 Isabel Shaida, self

09:46:45 Mary Catherine Dunphy, self

09:48:31 Harold Hoem, self

09:51:25 Janice Hoem, self

09:51:38 Winona Rachel, self

09:52:15 Molly Bell, self

09:53:18 Linda Henderson, self

09:54:31 John Loos, self

09:54:57 Sue Kirchmyer, self

09:56:18 Thomas Meinzen, self

09:57:44 Robert Byron, self  
09:59:34 Youpa Stein, self  
10:00:45 Winona Bateman, Families for a Livable Climate  
10:02:42 Patti Steinmuller, self  
10:04:07 Abby Huseh, Climate Smart Missoula  
10:05:40 Amy Cilimburg, Climate Smart Missoula  
10:06:55 Shanti Devins, self  
10:07:29 Mary Fitzpatrick, self  
10:09:05 Katherine Elam, Forward Montana  
10:10:27 Susan Evans, Montana Sierra Club  
10:12:30 Robyn Morrison, Montana League of Women Voters  
10:14:36 Bonnie Gestring, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

10:15:40 Chris Dorrington, Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee:**

10:16:43 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
10:17:38 Darryl James, MIC  
10:21:55 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
10:21:59 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ  
10:22:53 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
10:22:56 Matt Vincent, MMA  
10:25:54 Sen. Theresa Manzella  
10:26:22 Julianne Burkhardt  
10:26:43 Sen. Steve Hinebauch  
10:27:24 Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ

10:28:07	Chair Keith Regier
10:28:28	Sonja Nowakowski, DEQ
10:29:06	Vice Chair Jen Gross
10:30:19	Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
10:32:19	Vice Chair Jen Gross
10:32:46	Anne Hedges, MEIC
10:35:54	Chair Keith Regier
10:36:19	Anne Hedges, MEIC
10:38:03	Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:38:25	Chris Dorrington, DEQ
10:41:04	Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:41:28	Anne Hedges, MEIC
10:47:19	Sen. Susan Webber
10:47:43	Darryl James, MIC
10:50:37	Sen. Susan Webber
10:51:11	Robin Turner, ACLUMT
10:51:33	Sen. Susan Webber
10:51:43	Anne Hedges, MEIC
10:54:58	Sen. Susan Webber
10:55:29	Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R
10:55:34	Vice Chair Barry Usher
10:55:52	Alan Olson, MPA
10:57:27	Sen. Theresa Manzella
10:59:53	Sen. Daniel Emrich

11:01:23 Alan Olson, MPA  
11:02:33 Sen. Daniel Emrich  
11:05:33 Anne Hedges, MEIC  
11:08:47 Sen. Chris Friedel  
11:09:21 Chris Dorrington, DEQ  
11:09:56 Vice Chair Jen Gross  
11:10:15 Rep. Joshua Kassmier-R

**Closing Statement:**

11:10:18 Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27, closed the hearing on HB 971.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 971 - Revise environmental policy act**

11:30:17 **Motion:** Vice Chair Barry Usher moved that **HB 971 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

11:30:32 Sen. Andrea Olsen  
11:31:02 Chair Keith Regier  
11:31:15 Vice Chair Barry Usher  
11:31:21 Julianne Burkhardt  
11:31:37 Sen. Steve Hinebauch  
11:31:56 Sen. Chris Friedel  
11:30:17 **Vote:** Motion carried 7 - 4 by roll call vote with Sen. Gross, Sen. Kelker, Sen. Olsen, Sen. Webber, voting no.  
Sen. Kelker, By Proxy  
11:30:17 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jason Small

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 11:33:10

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Grace Gibney, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230426JUSaad\)](#)