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p11,000/1v1 vv. 11gure 3 outlines lease payments and property tax revenue. Example of "Central W11 wins" (pg 14 +). McN		_	•	•	-			
		p11,000/1/1 w. Figure 3 out	imes lease payments and pi	operty tax revenue. Exai	npie or Central IVI I W	vins (pg 14 +). Wichally		

	How has the RPS	How has the RPS	What environmental		
	diversified generation	contributed to air	different generation	mitigated climate	disadvantages are
	and reduced dependence	1	has been used to meet	change?	attributable to the RPS?
	on fossil fuels?	contributions translate to health impacts?	the RPS?		
	Companies have said they	-	Majority is wind, also	Negligible. <b>Driscoll</b>	Birds. <b>Driscoll</b>
	would have diversified by		some small hydro.		
	6	decrease in air	Driscoll	Science has not	Again, insignificant at thi
Findings	without the RPS, but I do		**** 1 ** 1	agreed if there has	time, because the opinion
		electricity being consumed, we are meeting the demand		been change. Forests fires and volcanic	is in the eye of the
	have purchased as much wind without the pressure		cogeneration. Lang	eruptions create	beholder. Every human element has some
		resources. <b>Driscoll</b>	Wind and hydro.		proportional effect on the
	far as reduced dependence		Regier	the climate. Lang	environment. Lang
	on fossil fuels. <b>Driscoll</b>	Very insignificantly and			
		inconclusively. Very	Wind and small hydro.	No evidence was	Environmental
	Yes, and it will be a	insignificantly and	Nothing that could be		disadvantages of the RPS
	minimum of 15 % of utility retail sales by	inconclusively. The opinions are unscientific.	considered baseload. <b>Olson</b>	the RPS affected the climate. <b>Regier</b>	are birds and bird deaths,
		Human genetic differences	Oison	chinate. <b>Regier</b>	some sound pollution and diminished aesthetics of
		and differences in personal	Figure 1. Mostly wind:	Minimal to none.	the geography for some
		habits affect personal	some hydro. McNally	Olson	people. <b>Regier</b>
	and household consumers.			MCCAC study	
	Wind presently needs		Wind is the most		Birds, bats and view-
	electricity to start the	I didn't hear any conclusive		_	shed. <b>Olson</b>
	turbines. Judith Gap purchases \$40,000 of	results that showed the	renewable energy, but	for even higher RPS.	Dind/hat mantality I and
	electricity annually. Lang	RPS improved air quality	small hydro plants are also certified as	More energy	Bird/bat mortality. Land use footprint(less than 1
	electricity annually. Lang	benefits were based on	renewable along with a	renewable. Focus on	acre per MW disturbed
	The RPS has not reduced	speculation. <b>Regier.</b>	single cogeneration	consumption, not	permanently). McNally
	dependence on fossil	1	facility. <b>Steenberg</b>	supply. McNally	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	fuels. Fossil fuels provide	Minimal to none. <b>Olson</b>			The bird and bat mortality
	the consistency and				associated with wind is a
	volume that the RPS can't.			warming gases	disadvantage. Another
	Regier	generation once built.		positively influences climate change. The	environmental concern raised is the amount of
	Minimal to none. <b>Olson</b>	Positive impacts on water consumption and waste		reduction of	land impacted by large-
	William to hole. Olson	generation. Figure 6		pollutants into our	scale wind, especially the
	Renewable energy has	emissions displaced. EPA		atmosphere positively	
		data on health impacts.		impacts human	Steenberg
	based generation has	Difficulty in assessing		health. <b>Steenberg</b>	
	declined; due to several	localized downwind			
	factors including RPS.	impacts. McNally			
	Comparing 2007 to 2013 NWE reports renewable	When considering that			
	increase from 15% to	renewables displace fossil			
	32%. Both renewables	fuels on a MW to MW			
		basis, there is a			
		corresponding reduction in			
	_	regulated air pollutants			
	portfolio. McNally	(CO2, SO2, NOx, mercury) resulting in air			
	While wind supplies the	quality improvements.			
		Steenberg			
	energy, there is also small				
	hydro and a cogeneration				
	facility. If you consider				
	renewables displace fossil				
	fuels, there may not as yet				
	be a reduced dependence, but certainly diversified				
	energy portfolios provide				
	benefits to both utilities				
	and consumers. There is				
	disagreement over the				
	amount of influence the				
	RPS has in this regard.				
	Steenberg				
General Findings or		ent granting exemptions for nonitor wind farms. FWP co			
Comments on	1 1011, WHUITE, AND FAIRS I	nomior which faillis, I WF Co	zara assess and recomme	na ona acam mingani	on sualegies. <b>Negici</b>
Environmental	Very few, if any, positive	environmental impacts. Ver	y few, if any, negative e	nvironmental impacts.	Olson
mpacts. (May	Canarally wary positive in	terms of emissions (zero) s	lowing rote of increase	of amissions and result	ing impacts on climate

include Legislative proposals.)

Generally very positive in terms of emissions (zero), slowing rate of increase of emissions and resulting impacts on climate change, air quality, health. Fossil fuel use growing – along with renewables – but at slower rate than with no renewables! **McNally** 

		Consumo	er Impacts					
	How has the RPS mitigated or contributed	How has the RPS assisted	How has the RPS assisted in other					
	to higher energy costs	volatility in fossil fuel prices?	efforts to help consumers?					
		Negligible. <b>Driscoll</b>	The many facets of					
			energy production make					
	The utility companies	Fossil fuel prices are	this opinion very					
indings	have stated that consumer	created by supply, demand,	complex. Lang					
	costs are small, however, every energy cost is	transportation and						
	assumed by the rate payer	government regulation.	Not Applicable. Regier					
	at a increase of 7%. The	Lang						
	complexity of the cost of	Mantana haa aa muul	Minimal to none. <b>Olson</b>					
	photos production and	Montana has so much hydro and coal generation,						
	transmission hide the increases associated with	volatility in fossil fuel	Cost caps are in place to					
		prices is not felt. <b>Regier</b>	protect consumers from excessively high energy					
	cost us somehow. Lang	_	costs. <b>Steenberg</b>					
		With current proposed	costs. Secenderg					
	With extreme standards	Federal regulation of fossil						
	placed on coal generation by the EPA, it is difficult	fuels, renewable sources						
	1 66 6 64	may become more economic but the cost to						
	RPS on ratepayers.	consumers will ultimately						
	Regier	increase. As for volatility						
		of fossil fuels, the most						
		volatile is natural gas						
	ringace a mgmer prices.	needed to firm intermittent wind resources.						
	1 /	Historically coal has been						
		the least volatile fossil fuel.						
		Olson						
	sources require additional							
		Once constructed and						
	4 4 41 1	integrated, wind essentially						
	01	fixed (free?) in terms of priceprice of natural gas						
		seems to be primary driver						
	Beacon Hill Institute	of volatility in fossil fuel						
	L L	market. <b>McNally</b>						
	Lawrence Berkeley study							
	(Fig 9) shows MT on lowest end – nearing zero	NorthWestern Energy was						
	%. Firming costs – come	the only utility that opined renewables provide a						
	of David Gates	partial hedge against fossil						
	attributable to this;	fuel price swings, but they						
		also noted the gas-fired						
	A 11	resources required to						
	According to the utilities (NWE & MDU) as well	integrate renewables (DGGS) may offset any						
	as the Montana Consumer							
	Counsel, the RPS has had							
	minimal impact on energy							
	costs for consumers.							
	Steenberg							
General	Consumer impacts are unc	ertain at this time. Presentl	 v the best way to maintai	n the impacts of this u	ncertainty is to leave the			
Findings or	15% RPS requirement as i		, and cook may to maintai	mpacts of this t	in to leave the			
Comments on	-							
Consumer	With so many variables in	energy production, it is imp	possible to accurately ass	ess the RPS impacts. I	Regier			
mpacts. (May nclude	·		ř	•	<del>-</del>			
Legislative	With current proposed Fed	leral regulation of fossil fue	ls renewable sources may	y become more econor	nic but the cost to			
proposals.)	consumers will ultimately	increase. As for volatility o	f fossil fuels, the most vo	•				
= '	wind resources. Historical	ly coal has been the least vo	latile fossil fuel. <b>Olson</b>					

Don't have the data in front of me, but PSC/NWE data on costs of different sources of energy show coal as one of their most expensive sources; wind as one of the least. I believe the slide was in a recent PSC presentation to ETIC. It doesn't exactly fit here, but seems to be relevant – perhaps in terms of market volatility. **McNally** 

General Findings or Comments(May include Legislative proposals.)

I am glad we did this study during the Interim. It shows me that passing this legislation in 2005 did not increase customer rates as was claimed at the time, but neither did it really reduce emissions substantially that was claimed at the time. What this study tells me is that we are expanding our portfolio without increasing pollutants. I am not sorry I voted to pass SB415 and I will continue to advocate for increased use of renewables to meet our increasing energy demand. **Driscoll** 

One of the goals of the RPS was to promote and support economic development in rural Montana, evidenced in the title of the enacting legislation, 'The Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act'. This has proven to be the case, especially in central Montana, where the RPS has supported the development of both large and small wind farms. These facilities have brought accompanying jobs and contributed significantly to the tax base of rural counties, while providing important financial support to local businesses. In Harlowton, local officials provided unwavering support for this program as they outlined the benefits they reap as a result of the RPS. The RPS has also resulted in numerous Qualifying Facilities that also provide economic benefits to rural Montana counties. These QFs include not only wind, but hydroelectric generation facilities as well. I've enjoyed the ETIC meetings in Helena, as well as the trips we've taken around the state. It's been a wonderful experience to actually see the results of legislation passed in prior years. While I've absorbed a great deal of information concerning the RPS as well as other energy issues, there is still much to learn. I sincerely appreciate the patience extended to me by the staff and other committee members during this process. Thanks! **Steenberg** 

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