

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN KARL WAITSCHIES**, on March 10, 2005 at 8:00 A.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Karl Waitschies, Chairman (R)
Rep. Gary Branae, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Bob Lake, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. John Balyeat (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Margaret H. Campbell (D)
Rep. Tom Facey (D)
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Jim Peterson (R)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Scott Sales (R)
Rep. Bill Warden (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Rep. Jill Cohenour (D)
Rep. Holly Raser (D)

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Debra Polhemus, Committee 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 762, 3/4/2005; SB 184, 3/4/2005;
SB 222, 3/4/2005; SB 261, 3/4/2005;
SB 340, 3/4/2005

Executive Action:

HEARING ON SB 261

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:14 SEN. GARY PERRY (R), SD 35, opened the hearing on
SB 261, Revise manufactured home tax declaration
process.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:05 Bill Gowen, Helena Abstract & Title Company
00:03:51 Stuart Doggett, Montana Land and Title Association
and Montana Manufacturing Housing & Recreational
Vehicle Association
00:05:46 Robert A. Throssell, Montana Association of Clerk
and Recorders
00:06:42 Brenda Nordland, Montana Department of Justice

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:07:56 Debbie Jurcich, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:09:51 REP. LAKE
00:13:09 REP. PETERSON
00:14:36 CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES

Closing by Sponsor:

00:18:11 SEN. GARY PERRY (R) closed the hearing on SB 261.

HEARING ON SB 222

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:18:57 SEN. GREGORY BARKUS (R), SD 4, opened the hearing
on SB 222, Revise local option fuel tax.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:21:52 L. Harold Blattie, Assistant Director, Montana
Association of Counties
00:25:29 Bill Kennedy, Yellowstone County Commissioner,
President, Montana Association of Counties
00:26:44 Carl Schweitzer, Kalispell Chamber of Commerce
00:27:34 Jim Patrick, City Manager, Kalispell
00:28:21 Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns
00:30:39 Joe Mazurek, representing City of Great Falls

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:31:13 REP. ROSS
00:33:48 REP. GROESBECK
00:35:01 REP. WISEMAN
00:37:33 REP. SALES
00:40:23 REP. ROSS
00:41:27 CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES

Closing by Sponsor:

00:42:49 SEN. GREGORY BARKUS (R) closed the hearing on
SB 272.

HEARING ON SB 340

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:43:10 SEN. JEFF ESSMANN (R), SD 28, opened the hearing
on SB 340, Builder allowed tax credit for
residential geothermal systems.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:47:11 Leslie McClain, Montana Environmental Information
Center
00:48:27 Ron Devlin, Northwestern Energy Company
EXHIBIT(tah53a01) Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives
Association via letter

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:50:12 Jim McKeon, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:50:52 REP. WISEMAN
00:52:37 REP. BUTCHER

Closing by Sponsor:

00:53:23 **SEN. JEFF ESSMANN (R)** closed the hearing on
SB 340.

HEARING ON HB 762

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:55:17 **REP. JOHN BALYEAT (R), HD 100**, opened the hearing
on **HB 762**, Property tax relief by replacing state
school levy with general fund for 2 years.

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah53a02)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:59:28 **SEN. JOE BALYEAT**

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah53a03)

Opponents' Testimony:

01:06:50 Tom Bilodeau, Research Director, MEA/MFT
01:09:35 Joe Lamson, representing State Superintendent of
Public Instruction, Linda McCulloch

Informational Testimony:

01:11:04 Larry Finch, Montana Department of Revenue

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:11:22 **REP. SALES**
01:13:58 **REP. COHENOUR**
01:16:12 **REP. WISEMAN**
01:19:12 **REP. PETERSON**
01:20:35 **REP. HIMMELBERGER**
01:22:34 **CHAIRMAN WAITSCHIES**

Closing by Sponsor:

01:23:32 **REP. JOHN BALYEAT (R)** closed the hearing on
HB 762.

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah53a04)

01:27:30 **REP. FACEY**
01:28:08 **SEN. BALYEAT**
01:28:32 **REP. COHENOUR**

01:29:01 Break
02:00:22 Resume

HEARING ON SB 184

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:00:49 **SEN. JEFF MANGAN (D), SD 12**, opened the hearing on
SB 184, Local option sales tax.

Proponents' Testimony:

02:06:28 Chris Kukulski, City Manager, Bozeman

EXHIBIT (tah53a05)

02:11:51 Gary Marks, City Manager, Whitefish

EXHIBIT (tah53a06)

02:19:27 Mona Jamison, representing Big Sky Resort Area
District

EXHIBIT (tah53a07)

02:23:55 Chuck Tooley, Mayor of Billings, President,
Montana League of Cities and Towns

02:25:33 John Shontz , Lee Enterprises, specifically the
Billings Gazette

02:27:52 M. Duane Larson, representing City of Kalispell

02:33:24 Rick Evans, President, Great Falls Area Chamber of
Commerce

02:34:00 Stuart Doggett, representing the Montana
Innkeepers Association

02:35:39 Charles Brooks, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce
and Yellowstone County Commissioners also speaking
for Carl Schweitzer, for Kalispell and Bozeman
Chamber of Commerce

02:37:16 Steve Snezek, Montana Association of Realtors

02:38:00 Curt Chisholm, Montana Builders Association

02:39:27 Mark Tymrak, Past President, Montana Association
of Chiefs of Police and Director of Public Safety,
Bozeman

02:41:49 Jim Patrick, City Manager, Kalispell

02:45:08 Linda Gryczan, speaking for League of Women Voters

02:46:00 Bill Dove, Legislative Chair, Montana Police
Protection Association

02:46:28 Randy Gray, Mayor of Great Falls

02:49:01 Steve Golnar, City Manager, Livingston

EXHIBIT (tah53a08)

02:49:44 Tim Burton, City Manager, Helena

02:51:27 Gordon Morris, Director, Montana Association of
Counties

02:52:40 Mike Kadas, Mayor of Missoula

02:56:00 Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns

EXHIBIT (tah53a09)

Opponents' Testimony:

03:01:14 Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

[EXHIBIT \(tah53a10\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah53a11\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah53a12\)](#)

03:10:40 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

03:13:40 John Bloomquist, representing Montana Stockgrowers Association

03:18:05 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Businesses

03:21:17 Kevin Taylor, Owner, Great Divide Ski Area

[EXHIBIT \(tah53a13\)](#)

03:23:21 Carla Johnson, representing Montana Cattle Women

03:24:19 George Ochenski, representing Great Divide Ski Area

03:29:09 Gene Fenderson, Montana Progressive Labor Caucus

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

03:30:59 REP. WISEMAN

03:36:08 REP. SALES

03:39:17 REP. PETERSON

03:42:45 REP. ROSS

03:45:43 REP. BRANAE

Closing by Sponsor:

03:47:45 SEN. JEFF MANGAN (D) closed the hearing on SB 184.

03:52:03

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 12:00 P.M.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

KW/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah53aad0.PDF](#))