

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JIM PETERSON**, on March 11, 2005 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 152 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jim Peterson, Chairman (R)
Rep. Christopher Harris, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Dee L. Brown (R)
Rep. Paul Clark (D)
Rep. Sue Dickenson (D)
Rep. Kevin T. Furey (D)
Rep. Gail Gutsche (D)
Rep. Ralph Heinert (R)
Rep. Llew Jones (R)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Rick Maedje (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Veronica Small-Eastman (D)

Members Absent: Rep. David E. Wanzenried (D)
Rep. George Everett (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Debby Barrett (R)

Staff Present: Joe Kolman, 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: SB 95, 3/7/2005; SB 131, 3/7/2005;
SB 449, 3/7/2005; SB 494, 3/7/2005

Executive Action:

00:01:44 Break
00:10:10 Resume

HEARING ON SB 494

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:10:38 **SEN. KEITH BALES (R), SD 20**, opened the hearing on **SB 494**, Facilitate development of Otter Creek tracts - coal lease extension.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:13:09 Monte Mason, Minerals Management Chief, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

00:15:11 Leo Berry, Great Northern Properties

[EXHIBIT \(nah54a01\)](#)

00:16:38 Jim Mockler, Executive Director, Montana Coal Council

00:17:25 Charles Brooks, representing Billings Area Chamber of Commerce

[EXHIBIT \(nah54a02\)](#)

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:19:15 **REP. LAMBERT**

00:19:53 **REP. DICKENSON**

00:22:03 **REP. JOPEK**

00:28:56 **REP. ROSS**

00:30:25 **REP. FUREY**

00:32:56 **REP. GUTSCHE**

00:37:10 **REP. HEINERT**

00:40:19 **CHAIRMAN PETERSON**

00:43:37 **REP. CLARK**

00:48:39 **REP. ROSS**

Closing by Sponsor:

00:49:10 **SEN. KEITH BALES (R)** closed the hearing on **SB 494**.

HEARING ON SB 131

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:52:27 **SEN. JERRY BLACK (R), SD 14**, opened the hearing on **SB 131**, Restrict use of MTBE as gasoline additive.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:55:40 Art Compton, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
 00:56:40 Gail Abercrombie, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association
 00:57:57 Richard Owen, Montana Grain Growers Association
 00:58:35 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center
 00:58:57 Michele Reinhart, Northern Plains Resource Council
EXHIBIT (nah54a03) [Women Involved in Farm Economics and Chris Christiaens](#), Montana Farmers Union via letter

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:59:41 **REP. HARRIS**
 01:04:42 **REP. JOPEK**
 01:07:55 **REP. HARRIS**
 01:09:57 **REP. GUTSCHE**
 01:10:43 **REP. ROSS**
 01:11:27 **CHAIRMAN PETERSON**
 01:12:46 **REP. FUREY**

Closing by Sponsor:

01:15:35 **SEN. JERRY BLACK (R)** closed the hearing on **SB 131**.
 01:17:15 Break
 01:31:04 Resume

HEARING ON SB 95

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:31:23 **SEN. GLENN ROUSH (D)**, **SD 8**, opened the hearing on **SB 95**, Revise oil and gas air quality permit application laws.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:35:41 Gail Abercrombie, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association
 01:37:38 Jerome Anderson, Attorney, Helena, representing Encore Acquisition Company

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:39:01 Don Vidrine, Chief, Air Resources Management
Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality

EXHIBIT (nah54a04)

01:45:17 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information
Center

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:46:59 REP. HARRIS

Closing by Sponsor:

01:52:18 SEN. GLENN ROUSH (D) closed the hearing on SB 95.

HEARING ON SB 449

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:53:46 SEN. GLENN ROUSH (D), SD 8, opened the hearing on
SB 449, Board of Oil and Gas Conservation to
promote state's oil and gas industry.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:56:20 Ed Bartlett, Attorney, representing Northern
Alliance of Oil and Gas Producers
01:57:53 Jerome Anderson, attorney representing Encore
Acquisition Company
01:58:20 Gail Abercrombie, Executive Director, Montana
Petroleum Association

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:59:42 Tom Richmond, Administrator, Board of Oil and Gas
Conservation

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:03:18 CHAIRMAN PETERSON

Closing by Sponsor:

02:05:49 SEN. GLENN ROUSH (D) closed the hearing on SB 449.

02:08:47

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:15 P.M.

REP. JIM PETERSON, Chairman

DEBRA POLHEMUS, Secretary

JP/dp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([nah54aad0.PDF](#))