

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN ALAN OLSON**, on April 6, 2005 at 3:20 P.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Alan Olson, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Gallik, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Mark E. Noennig (R)
Rep. John Parker (D)
Rep. Diane Rice (R)
Rep. Karl Waitschies (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)
Rep. Harry Klock (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Staff Present: Cynthia Peterson, Committee Secretary
Todd Everts, Legislative Branch

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HJ 41, 4/5/2005
Executive Action: HJ 41; HJ 40

HEARING ON HJ 41

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. MARGARETT CAMPBELL (D), HD 31, opened the hearing on **HJ 41**, which provides for a study on economic development in Indian country. **REP. CAMPBELL** spoke about difficulties in finding accurate data regarding Indian Country. The resolution will provide the framework for an interim study of tribal resources designed to advance the economic and social interests of all who reside in Montana. House Joint Resolution 41 will also provide lawmakers with data essential to good decision making in the practical application of Montana's fiscal resources. **REP. CAMPBELL** suggested the data would be critical to comprehensive state planning and budgeting efforts. **REP. CAMPBELL** believed Montana's tribes are often viewed as being non-contributors to Montana's economy. **REP. CAMPBELL** was certain an analysis of key indicators will support the position that the tribes are significant to Montana's economy. **REP. CAMPBELL** stated a study of the impact of tribal resources on Montana has never been conducted. **REP. CAMPBELL** would like to see a very detailed collection of data that would indicate the resources the tribes are already receiving.

Proponents' Testimony:

Major Robinson, Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity, works primarily with the tribes of Montana on economic development. **Mr. Robinson** explained that the Governor's Office supports HJ 41. **Mr. Robinson** believed the study will quantify the Montana Indian Nation resources, but will also delineate the State's contributions as well. **Mr. Robinson** was encouraged about being in a position to implement a study.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. CAMPBELL closed the hearing on HJ 41.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 41

Motion: REP. HIMMELBERGER moved that HJ 41 DO PASS.

Discussion:

REP. JOHN PARKER, HD 23, GREAT FALLS, commented HJ 41 is an excellent idea.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously by voice vote, with REP. JACOBSON, REP. WISEMAN, REP. KLOCK and REP. STAHL voting aye by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 40

Motion: REP. DRISCOLL moved that HJ 40 DO PASS.

Discussion:

REP. MARK NOENNIG, HD 46, BILLINGS, submitted copies of previous Resolutions brought before the U.S. Congress, which called for a balanced budget.

EXHIBIT(feh73a01)

CHAIRMAN OLSON commented there is nothing wrong with being required to balance the budget, and noted Montana always has to balance the budget either by raising taxes or making cuts.

REP. DAVE GALLIK, HD 79, HELENA, pointed out that U.S. Senator Craig's SJ 2 includes a third way to balance the budget, which states: "Total receipts shall include all receipts of the United States Government except those derived from borrowing. Total outlays shall include all outlays of the United States Government except for those for repayment of debt principal."

Discussion was held among the Committee about whether receipts from borrowing would be included. REP. GALLIK suggested borrowing would not count against the cap.

REP. KARL WAITSCHIES, HD 36, PEERLESS, wanted to know if "bonding" would be considered "borrowing." CHAIRMAN OLSON replied it would.

REP. DENNIS HIMMELBERGER, HD 47, BILLINGS, stated his interpretation of the language is that you cannot count the money you are getting from the bank as receipts.

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Vote: Motion carried 10-4 by voice vote with REP. HIMMELBERGER, REP. OLSON, and REP. WAITSCHIES voting no, REP. KLOCK voting no by proxy, and REP. WISEMAN, REP. JACOBSON, and REP. STAHL voting aye by proxy.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:45 P.M.

REP. ALAN OLSON, Chairman

CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

AO/cp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([feh73aad0.PDF](#))