

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 18, 2005 at 3:22 P.M., in Room 455 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Alan Olson, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dennis Himmelberger, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Robyn Driscoll (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Hal Jacobson (D)
Rep. Harry Klock (R)
Rep. Mark E. Noennig (R)
Rep. Diane Rice (R)
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

Members Excused: Rep. John Parker (D)

Members Absent: Rep. Dave Gallik, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. George G. Groesbeck (D)
Rep. Karl Waitschies (R)

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

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

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SJ 36, 4/16/2005; SJ 39, 4/16/2005
Executive Action: SJ 36, SJ 39

HEARING ON SJ 36

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. KEN TOOLE (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on **SJ 36**, which would provide for a study on distributed energy generation. **SEN. TOOLE** explained that distributed energy generation would relate to smaller generation and resources that are capable of being set around the system in different locations. **SEN. TOOLE** emphasized that wind could be looked at, but distributed energy would also include things like biofuels and burning wastes at lumber mills. **SEN. TOOLE** stated SJ 36 has broad-reaching bipartisan support.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. MARK NOENNIG, HD 46, BILLINGS, asked for clarification on the definition of distributed generation. **SEN. TOOLE** explained distributed generation refers to smaller facilities and cited net-metering and fuel-cell technology as good examples. **REP. NOENNIG** asked if this would be on the grid or would be independent, and **SEN. TOOLE** replied it could apply either way.

REP. BRADY WISEMAN, HD 65, BOZEMAN, compared distributed energy generation to the Internet, which is a distributed computing system. **REP. WISEMAN** wanted to know if the study would have any interest in looking into national defense implications. **SEN. TOOLE** agreed that aspect should be included in the study.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. TOOLE closed the hearing on SJ 36.

HEARING ON SJ 39

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. KEN TOOLE (D), SD 41, opened the hearing on **SJ 39**, which would study possible creation of ongoing energy planning and coordinating entity. **SEN. TOOLE** identified SJ 39 as a companion to the bill which would move energy planning functions from the

Environmental Quality Council (EQC) to the Energy and
Telecommunications Interim Committee (ETIC).

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. STAHL wanted to know why the two resolutions were not combined into one bill. SEN. TOOLE viewed the resolution on distributed systems as much more narrow. SEN. TOOLE acknowledged that the study committee would design the structure of the study.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. TOOLE closed the hearing on SJ 39.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 36

Motion/Vote: REP. JACOBSON moved that SJ 36 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried 13-1 by voice vote with REP. WAITSCHIES voting no by proxy and REP. GALLIK, REP. GROESBECK and REP. PARKER voting aye by proxy. REP. WISEMAN will carry the bill on the floor of the House.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 39

Motion/Vote: REP. NOENNIG moved that SJ 39 BE CONCURRED IN. Motion carried 13-1 by voice vote with REP. WAITSCHIES voting no by proxy, and REP. GALLIK, REP. GROESBECK and REP. PARKER voting aye by proxy. REP. OLSON will carry the bill on the floor of the House.

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ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:35 P.M.

REP. ALAN OLSON, Chairman

CYNTHIA PETERSON, Secretary

AO/cp

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([feh83aad0.PDF](#))