

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JIM ELLIOTT**, on March 4, 2005 at 8 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jim Elliott, Chairman (D)
Sen. Jerry W. Black (R)
Sen. Jeff Essmann (R)
Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)
Sen. Kim Gillan (D)
Sen. Dan Harrington (D)
Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R)
Sen. Bob Story Jr. (R)
Sen. Ken Toole (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Jon Ellingson (D)
Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kathleen Ely, Committee Secretary
Lee Heiman, Legislative Branch
Audio Technician

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: SJ 20, 3/2/2005; SB 480, 2/22/2005;
SB 502, 3/2/2005; SB 504, 3/2/2005;
SB 437, 2/22/2005;
Executive Action: None.

00:00:55_____

HEARING ON SJ 20

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. AUBYN CURTISS (R), SD 1, opened the hearing on **SJ 20**,
Request performance audit on extent of conservation easements.

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a01\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a02\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:02:46 Clarice Ryan, Flathead County

00:08:43 Barbara Broberg, Montana WIFE (Women Involved in
Farm Economics

00:09:13 REP. LLEW JONES, HD 27

Opponents' Testimony:

00:11:46 Mona Jamison, Montana Association of Land Trusts

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a05\)](#)

00:16:41 Bill Long, Montana Land Reliance

Informational Testimony:

00:17:37 Dolores Cooney, Department of Revenue

00:18:52

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:35:13

Closing by Sponsor:

00:40:53

HEARING ON SB 480

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. BRENT CROMLEY (D), SD 25, opened the hearing on **SB 480**,
Eliminate coal severance tax in-state generation incentive rate.

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a06\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

00:46:56 Dave Ohler, Department of Revenue

00:56:02

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:55:39

Closing by Sponsor:

01:01:25

HEARING ON SB 504

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. RICK LAIBLE (R), SD 44, opened the hearing on SB 504,
Increase attorney license tax.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony:

01:02:48 Bernie McCarthy, President-Elect Montana Bar
Association

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a07\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(tas48a08\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None.

01:10:17

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:30:06

Closing by Sponsor:

01:34:21 SEN. TOOLE assumes the Chair.

01:34:55

HEARING ON SB 502

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. GREGORY BARKUS (R), SD 4, opened the hearing on **SB 502**, Extend class three, class four, class ten property reappraisal cycle.

Proponents' Testimony: None.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony:

01:37:53 **Barbara Broberg, Montana WIFE (Women Involved in Farm Economics**

01:38:25 **Dolores Cooney, Department of Revenue**

01:43:50

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:48:33

Closing by Sponsor:

01:51:01

HEARING ON SB 437

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. JIM ELLIOTT (D), SD 7, opened the hearing on **SB 437**, Exclude state school levies from TIFs and require local school approval.

EXHIBIT (tas48a09)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:58:51 **Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association**

Opponents' Testimony:

02:01:17 **Mike Kadas, Mayor of Missoula**

02:06:47 **Tim McGee, Administrative Financial Officer of Helena**

02:12:32 **Jim Davison, Montana Economic Developers Association**

02:16:09 **Alec Hansen, League of Cities and Towns**

02:19:28 **Ellen Buchanan, Missoula County Redevelopment**

02:20:47 **Linda Stoll, Montana Association of Planners**

02:22:13 **Chris Behan, Missoula County Redevelopment**

Informational Testimony:

02:23:28 **Larry Finch, Department of Revenue**
02:23:48 **Evan Barrett, Governor's Office on Economic
Planning**

02:24:14

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:32:28

Closing by Sponsor:

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:38 A.M.

SEN. JIM ELLIOTT, Chairman

KATHLEEN ELY, Secretary

JE/ke

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tas48aad0.PDF](#))