MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
64th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL RELATIONS, ENERGY, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Mike Lang, on February 18, 2015 at 3:00 PM, in Room 472 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:
- Rep. Mike Lang, Chair (R)
- Rep. Tom Steenberg, Vice Chair (D)
- Rep. Daniel Zolnikov, Vice Chair (R)
- Rep. Tom Berry (R)
- Rep. Geraldine Custer (R)
- Rep. Ryan Lynch (D)
- Rep. David (Doc) Moore (R)
- Rep. Zac Perry (D)
- Rep. Randall Pinocci (R)
- Rep. Christopher Pope (D)
- Rep. Tom Richmond (R)
- Rep. Casey Schreiner (D)

Members Excused:
- Rep. Austin Knudsen (R)
- Rep. Andrew Person (D)
- Rep. Jeffrey W. Welborn (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jessica Riffel, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

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 485, 2/13/2015; HB 489, 2/13/2015
Opening Statement by Sponsor:
00:03:54 Rep. Randall Pinocci (R), HD 19, opened the hearing on HB 489, Generally revise net metering laws.

Proponents' Testimony:
00:09:58 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest
00:12:53 Becky Brandborg, Self
00:15:30 Connor Darby, Onsite Energy and Self
00:19:41 Diana Maneta, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)
00:21:03 Debbra Hanneman, Self
00:21:38 Jennifer Hill-Hart, Alternative Energy Recourse Organization (AERO)

EXHIBIT(feh37a02)
00:22:59 Wade Sikorski, Self
00:26:17 Gary Atiken, Self

Opponents' Testimony:
00:30:10 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

EXHIBIT(feh37a03)
00:40:39 Rep. Person entered

EXHIBIT(feh37a04)
00:46:48 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)
00:48:16 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative
00:53:18 Mark Grotbo, Ravalli County Electric Cooperative

EXHIBIT(feh37a05)
EXHIBIT(feh37a06)
00:54:43 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
00:55:20 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:
00:55:59 Rep. Moore
00:56:19 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative
00:58:49 Rep. Moore
00:59:03 Scott Odegard, Sun River Electric Cooperative
00:59:12 Rep. Perry
00:59:33 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative
00:59:42 Rep. Perry
00:59:54 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative
01:00:08 Rep. Perry
01:00:15 Wendy Ostrom-Price, Flathead Electric Cooperative
Closing by Sponsor:

01:17:29 Rep. Pinocci

01:21:52 Recess
Rep. Knudsen left the hearing

01:27:12 Reconvened
HEARING ON HB 485

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Proponents' Testimony:
01:32:48 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest
01:34:58 Diana Maneta, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

EXHIBIT (feh37a07)
01:38:12 Ed Gulick, High Plains Architects
01:41:25 Dan Brandborg, SBS Solar

EXHIBIT (feh37a08)
01:46:50 Betsy Costain, Neighborhood Association
01:48:50 Kathie Montgomery, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
01:50:38 Wade Sikorski, Self

Opponents' Testimony:
01:52:39 John Fitzpatrick, Northwestern Energy (NWE)

EXHIBIT (feh37a09)

EXHIBIT (feh37a10)
02:02:28 Rep. Pope
02:02:49 Gary Forrester, Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)
02:06:00 Dan Flynn, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
02:06:25 Doug Hardy, Montana Electric Cooperatives Association (MECA)

Informational Testimony:
02:06:49 Will Rosquist, Public Service Commission (PSC)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:
02:07:15 Rep. Zolnikov
02:07:40 Gary Forrester, MDU
02:08:03 Rep. Zolnikov
02:08:06 Gary Forrester, MDU
02:08:17 Rep. Pinocci
02:09:20 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest
02:10:01 Rep. Pope
02:11:02 Will Rosquist, PSC
02:11:22 Rep. Pope
02:11:25 Will Rosquist, PSC
02:11:47 Rep. Pope
02:12:11 Will Rosquist, PSC

Closing by Sponsor:
02:14:14 Rep. Wittich

02:20:29 Recess
02:34:45 Reconvened
EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 252

02:35:11  **Motion:** Rep. Steenberg moved that **HB 252 BE REMOVED FROM TABLE.**

**Discussion:**
02:35:39  Chairman Lang

02:35:54  **Vote:** Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

02:36:09  **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **HB 252 DO PASS.**

**Discussion:**
02:36:16  Rep. Berry
02:36:42  Hope Stockwell, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
02:37:08  Chairman Lang
02:38:24  Rep. Zolnikov
02:38:44  Rep. Berry
02:38:58  Chairman Lang
02:39:02  Rep. Pope
02:39:27  Chairman Lang
02:39:44  Rep. Berry

02:39:49  **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SB 114

02:40:17  **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that **SB 114 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**
02:40:41  Rep. Steenberg
02:41:26  Rep. Moore
02:41:43  Rep. Schreiner
02:42:27  Rep. Person
02:43:22  Rep. Pope

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 489

02:44:59  **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that HB 489 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**  
02:45:08  Rep. Schreiner


EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 485

02:47:05  **Motion:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that HB 485 DO PASS.

**Discussion:**  
02:47:15  Rep. Zolnikov  
02:48:12  Rep. Schreiner  
02:49:08  Chairman Lang  
02:49:43  Rep. Zolnikov


02:50:59  **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Zolnikov moved that HB 485 BE TABLED. Motion carried 14-0 by voice vote. Rep. Knudsen was excused.

02:51:21  Chairman Lang
ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 02:51:35

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Jessica Riffel, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT(feh37aad.pdf)