

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE

69th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON (S) ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY & FEDERAL RELATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Gayle Lammers-R, on March 25, 2025 at 2:37 PM, in Room 405

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, Chair (R)
Sen. Christopher Pope, Vice Chair (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Mike Cuffe (R)
Sen. Janet Ellis (D)
Sen. Derek Harvey (D)
Sen. Denise Hayman (D)
Sen. Gregg Hunter (R)
Sen. Emma Kerr-Carpenter (D)
Sen. Barry Usher (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Wylie Galt (R)
Sen. Gayle Lammers (R)
Sen. Matt Regier (R)

Staff Present: Jason Mohr, Research Analyst
Michelle Russel, 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:

HJ 1 03/12/2025
HJ 4 03/12/2025
SJ 14 03/12/2025

Executive Action:

HB 55
HB 122
HB 350
HB 392
SJ 16 RESOLUTION ADOPTED
AS AMENDED

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 55 - Revising public utility resource planning laws

Motion:

14:39:40 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 55 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:41:13 **Vote:** There was no vote taken on this motion.

Motion:

14:40:18 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 55 BE AMENDED
HB0055.002.001.**

14:41:00 Vice Chair Christopher Pope

14:42:03 Chair Daniel Zolnikov

14:42:50 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion:

14:45:05 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 55 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:45:05 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 122 - Revise right-of-way laws

Motion:

14:51:29 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 122 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:53:15 Vice Chair Christopher Pope

14:53:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 9 - 4 in the Senate with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Hayman, Sen. Kerr-Carpenter, Sen. Pope, voting no.

14:51:29 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mike Cuffe

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 350 - Prohibit enforcement of policies issued by certain intergovernmental entities

Motion:

14:55:04 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 350 BE CONCURRED IN.**

14:55:20 Jason Mohr
14:56:00 Vice Chair Christopher Pope
14:56:22 Vice Chair Gayle Lammers
14:56:40 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 5 in the Senate with Sen. Ellis, Sen. Harvey, Sen. Hayman, Sen. Kerr-Carpenter, Sen. Pope, voting no.
14:55:04 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Kenneth Bogner

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 392 - Generally revise laws related to creation of profitable family video content featuring minor children

Motion:

14:58:07 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 392 BE CONCURRED IN.**
14:59:07 Sen. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

Motion:

14:59:16 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 392 BE AMENDED HB0392.002.001.**
15:00:27 Sen. Kenneth Bogner
15:00:57 Sen. Emma Kerr-Carpenter
15:02:03 Chair Daniel Zolnikov
15:02:13 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion:

15:02:37 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **HB 392 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**
15:02:58 Sen. Janet Ellis
15:03:21 Chair Daniel Zolnikov
15:03:51 **Vote:** Motion carried 12 - 1 in the Senate with Sen. Hayman, voting no.
15:02:37 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Emma Kerr-Carpenter

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 16 - Joint resolution on automated vehicles

Motion:

15:04:38 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **SJ 16 RESOLUTION ADOPTED.**

15:05:01 **Vote:** There was no vote taken on this motion.

Motion:

15:04:56 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **SJ 16 BE AMENDED SJ0016.001.001.**

15:05:14 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion:

15:05:48 Vice Chair Christopher Pope moved that **SJ 16 RESOLUTION ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

15:06:20 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

HEARING ON SJ 14 - Resolution to release federal wilderness study areas

Opening Statement:

15:16:45 Sen. Tony Tezak (R), SD 35, opening statement on SJ 14, Resolution to release federal wilderness study areas.

15:20:00 Sen. Tony Tezak

Proponent Testimony:

15:16:45 Rep. Shannon Maness, House District 70, Beaverhead County

15:18:00 Ross Morgan, Rocky Mountain Stockgrowers Association

15:19:08 EJ Redding, Citizen's For Balanced Use: Relaying that Jason Todd Hunter of the Montana Logging Association also supports this resolution

15:20:46 Diana Ahlgren, Self

15:23:25 Francis Strodtman-Royer, Southwest Montana Conservation Coalition

15:27:26 Ellie Brighton, Montana Stockgrowers Association

15:28:13 Mel Montgomery, Self

15:30:57 Todd Devlin, County Commissioner, Prairie County and Montana Association of Counties

15:32:38 Ian Wargo, Self

Opponent Testimony:

15:33:52 Noah Marion, Wild Montana

15:37:27 Mike Fields, Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

15:40:36 Jeff Lukas, Trout Unlimited

15:43:18 Jack Kirkley, Self

15:49:09 Joanne Jores, Self

15:51:15 Karen Porter, Self

15:54:00 Wayne Chamberlin, Montana Conservation Elders

15:58:27 Karen Stevenson, Self

16:04:19 Gail Joslin, Helena Hunters and Anglers Association

16:07:52 John Murray, Blackfeet Tribe

16:12:53 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

16:15:09 Bill Hallinan, Self

16:17:35 Grant Godbolt, Self

16:20:00 Laura Fergusson, Self

16:22:19 Debra Gay, Self

16:23:52 Ciara Pares Kempf, Self: EXHIBIT - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=579de19d-a4c5-42ce-8e9f-a6db269ed2da>

16:26:23 Carol Jones, Self

16:28:16 Peter Dudley, Montana Audubon

16:28:44 Kierstyn Cook, Montana Conservation Voters Education Fund

16:29:51 Kent Brown, Backcountry Horsemen of Montana

16:31:04 Dan Harper, Self

16:34:48 Mark Deopsomer, Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen

16:36:39 Kali Wicks, Yellowstone Coalition

16:37:04 Bill Avey, Self

16:38:47 Suzanne Hildner, North Fork Preservation Association

16:40:42 Nick Gevoc, Sierra Club

16:42:01 Clint Nagel, Gallatin Wildlife Association

16:43:33 Frank Szollosi, Executive Director, Montana Wildlife Association

16:44:44 Brad Pollman, Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen of Montana

16:46:28 Peter Metcalf, Glacier-Two Medicine Alliance

16:48:25 Sharon Patton-Griffin, Self

16:49:32 Eleanore Eberts, Self

16:51:02 Mark Good, Self

16:53:13 Larry Robson, Self

16:54:46 Ursula Mattson, Self

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

16:56:47 Sen. Tony Tezak (R), SD 35, closing statement on SJ 14.

HEARING ON HJ 1 - Resolution urging Congress to fully fund law enforcement in Indian Country

Opening Statement:

17:00:44 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, opening statement on HJ 1, Resolution urging Congress to fully fund law enforcement in Indian Country.

Proponent Testimony:

17:02:56 Patrick Yawakie, Blackfeet Tribe

17:04:06 Dan Stusek, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes

17:05:05 Allen Done, Department of Justice
17:06:01 Keaton Sunchild, Western Native Voice
17:06:20 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

None

Closing Statement:

17:07:53 Rep. Tyson Running Wolf (D), HD 16, closing statement on HJ 1.

HEARING ON HJ 4 - Interim study of artificial intelligence

Opening Statement:

17:08:52 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 35, opening statement on HJ 4, Interim study of artificial intelligence.

Proponent Testimony:

17:09:37 Brian Cassidy, DCI, Division of Criminal Investigation and Computer Crimes Expert, State of Montana

Opponent Testimony:

None

Informational Witness Testimony:

None

Questions from Committee:

17:12:03 Chair Daniel Zolnikov
17:12:04 Brian Cassidy, DCI, Division of Criminal Investigation and Computer Crimes Expert, State of Montana

Closing Statement:

17:12:58 Rep. Gary Parry (R), HD 35, closing statement on HJ 4.

17:14:50 Clearwater Wind Energy power point presentation

17:15:03 Ryan Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Nextera Energy Resources

17:19:20 Aimee Gromoljez: EXHIBIT - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=d2e0838d-d48c-484b-8665-3d928b3a4e29>

17:21:13 Chair Daniel Zolnikov

17:21:29 Sen. Denise Hayman

17:24:13 Sen. Gregg Hunter

17:24:32 Dexter Liu, Clearwater Wind

17:25:24 Sen. Janet Ellis

17:26:11 Ross Feehan, Nextera Energy Resources

17:26:26 Rep. Gary Parry-R

17:27:14 Sen. Kenneth Bogner

17:39:51 Rep. Kelly Kortum-D

17:42:25 Vice Chair Christopher Pope

17:51:55 Rep. Brandon Ler-R

17:56:21 Sen. Mike Cuffe

17:58:00 Sen. Bob Phalen-R

18:00:03 Vice Chair Gayle Lammers

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 13:54:53

Secretary: Michelle Russel

Additional Documents:

Visitor Register - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=13b641c6-5d97-41f6-99ef-9359cf0725a7>

Zoom Participation List - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=7f25a4bd-b730-45bd-be03-8e2ecac14fc9>

Proxy Forms - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=6f50b200-b8ba-47da-842a-a018f1fa1f8b>

Aimee Grmlोजez Power Point Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=48d04b50-0edb-4d4c-9dfe-4e4a06b4c522>

Wilderness Study Areas - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=4cc121f8-52c9-43a8-b886-875a9475b92a>

Tony Tezak Petition Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=be997a6b-c9d2-4aae-965f-87268067e08b>

Tony Tezak Petition Document 2 - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=947c699e-f81c-4740-9933-f8a03b0be6e7>

Tony Tezak Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=0540d542-f48f-4ee6-a939-6453b84b4485>

Karen Porter Testimony - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=8583c9b9-b223-444b-9e99-b12fda7db0ea>

Jack Kinkley Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=0f22efa2-6816-4f11-b577-ee4d85a2eb06>

EJ Redding Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=93a15530-0673-40cd-95f7-3b38e9c6f81b>

Declaring a National Emergency Document - <https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=dc99b8ce-b041-4488-9824-b4a7ed385385>