

February 10, 1977

The Natural Resources subcommittee on Conservation and Public Participation met at 8:30 a.m. on February 10, 1977, in room 435, with Chairman Bengtson presiding and Reps. Nathe, Davis and Curtiss present.

Chairman Bengtson said the schedule for meetings next week will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m., with the meeting room yet to be determined.

Rep. Meloy was present to discuss his HB 292. Chairman Bengtson asked if the tax incentives were enough to really encourage further conservation of home energy or if they would be used by people who would have done similarly anyway. Rep. Meloy said he felt it was an incentive that would cover anything from reinsulation to installing alternative energy devices. He said the schedule was gradual--the more likely activity to be carried out would be in the area of \$1000 and this would have a deduction of 100%--the next \$1000 would have a 50% deduction--and when you get to \$7000 and more the schedule keeps going down but is still large enough to encourage energy conservation --but not so large as to make the appropriation committee frown.

Rasmussen's similar bill gives tax credit. Another difference is that Meloy's bill replaces existing property tax incentives that are on the code book but unworkable--it required that the assessor had to check the property to qualify. Rasmussen's doesn't do this.

Question was brought up on people who had received grants--Rep. Meloy suggested amending them out. Question of abuse--tax incentive will go to the contractor or builder in the building of a new home. Sunshine clause--Rep. Meloy didn't object to one but didn't think it was needed. Senator Rasmussen's bill has one--December 31, 1982. Rep. Davis felt a future legislature could take care of that if they felt it was no longer needed. He asked about having 20% straight through and would it be sufficient to put in a good alternative energy system.

Weatherization--how his bill applies. His bill is an amendment to the existing Kemmis bill--just inserting new language into it to add incentives. Larry of the EQC passed around a copy of this law from the code books.

Sonny Hanson said a base needs to be established--to determine what the norm is. A bill like SB 401 to get all the building code functions into one body would be helpful.

Rep. Meloy said no deduction is made on any energy conservation investment that would normally have been made.

Rep. Meloy asked if the committee wished to have his bill referred to it--but to please not keep it too long. The committee said yes.

Rep. Curtiss asked if it would be unrealistic to incorporate some of HB 740 to keep away from subdivision and builder abuses.

Rep. Meloy's bill would also be an incentive for building small alternative energy plants.

Russ Plath was to see if Senator Rasmussen could discuss his bill

at the meeting the following day, Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ESTHER BENGTON, Chairman

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