

April 16, 1977

The Natural Resources Committee convened in room 437, on April 16, 1977, at 8:30 a.m., with Chairman Shelden presiding and all members present except Reps. Huennekens and Quilici.

Chairman Shelden said this meeting is to further discuss the energy proposals. He asked Rep. Bengtson to begin with her subcommittee's report.

Rep. Bengtson, chairman of the Conservation and Public Participation Subcommittee, went through their suggested proposals, exhibit 1.

Rep. Harper said he would like to expand on the last proposal which was to increase public participation. He said a list of different subject areas should be compiled and left in local libraries, court houses, etc. A person could take the list and check off the area he is most interested in and send it in (perhaps to the citizen advocate) with a self addressed stamped envelope. These names would go on a mailing list and then when a decision needs to be made the people with an interest in that area would be sent information so they can make a reasonable decision and asked to send back their evaluation. If the issue was hot they could request a seminar or meeting (which he could foresee happening only once every two or three years). This would be a mechanism to get an interest group together and get input on the subject. He felt it would not involve any more money than is now being spent to get public participation. He felt it would result in an up-to-date mailing list and help counter the feeling of alienation people feel toward the government.

Rep. Curtiss expressed a fear that the greatest majority of participants would be people interested in proliferating public assistance programs and she said we can't afford any more of that.

Chairman Shelden said he appreciated Rep. Harper's remarks. The committee's feeling seemed to be that proposal 7 adequately covered that area for now.

Rep. Burnett suggested that in proposal 3 to delete "low income" and "through a major funding increase".

Rep. Cooney moved that the proposals of the Conservation and Public Participation Subcommittee be adopted with the suggested change in number 3 made by Rep. Burnett. Rep. Metcalf seconded the motion and the motion carried with all voting yes except Rep. Burnett who voted no.

Chairman Shelden had the committee turn their attention again to the Siting Subcommittee's proposals which had been started on Friday. These proposals are exhibit 2 of the minutes.

Rep. Curtiss moved that "decisions should be based primarily on Montana's needs" be struck. This is in the second proposal. This was widely discussed by the committee. Rep. Cooney said the proposal

was a compromise between the industries and others. Rep. Hirsch said they would be taking a lot of water plus emissions from the stacks. Rep. Davis felt the more we limit the industries the higher our electricity will be. Rep. Curtiss changed her motion to leave in "decisions should be based primarily on Montana's needs" to deleting "energy" on the third line of the second proposal. Rep. Metcalf seconded that proposal. Motion carried unanimously with those present.

Chairman Sheldon asked the committee to consider proposal 1, which on checking the minutes of the previous meeting had not been voted on. Rep. Curtiss had at the previous meeting made a motion to delete "social" and "economic". Rep. Davis felt also it was important to monitor the environmental impact but not the social and economic after the plant is built. Rep. Metcalf questioned if health shouldn't be monitored. Rep. Davis suggested changing the words to "health and environmental impacts". Rep. Bengtson felt monitoring of all phases was needed--she felt if we ignore these we ignore the people of Montana. Chairman Sheldon said to monitor is to gather information and there in no implied authority to shut anyone down. Rep. Bengtson suggested deleting "environmental" also and adding that to Mrs. Curtiss' motion--this would then leave the sentence as "monitoring impacts". Rep. Curtiss preferred to leave it with just social and economic. The question was called and the motion failed with five voting yes, and six no (Bengtson, Hirsch, Frates, Harper, Sheldon, Metcalf), 1 abstaining (Rep. Nathe--he wished only social deleted), and five absent (Cooney, Quilici, Huennekens, Burnett and Kessler).

Rep. Metcalf moved that proposal 1 be adopted with just "department of natural resources" being struck and inserted in lieu "appropriate state agencies". This motion carried with 8 yes, 7 no (Burnett, Cox, Curtiss, Davis, Ernst, Hurwitz, Hirsch), 2 absent (Quilici and Huennekens).

Rep. Curtiss moved that proposal number 3 be adopted. The motion carried with Rep. Harper voting no and Rep. Quilici and Huennekens absent.

On proposal 4 Rep. Hirsch said he opposed the first part as the department does not have the expertise to do the forecasting for energy in Montana. He felt the industries should do the forecasting with DNR doing the reviewing. Rep. Curtiss felt this could be mandating the department to do something.

Rep. Nathe moved to strike proposal 4. Rep. Harper felt the last sentence of the proposal is very important--he said a siting inventory is badly needed. Rep. Nathe questioned if it is really necessary with the clean air laws. Rep. Hirsch moved a substitute motion that the first line be deleted but the last one left. He said it is important to locate these plants where the atmospheric conditions are right and off stream storage can be provided for. Rep. Davis felt we would just be adding another job to the department. He said they would have to study the whole state of Montana to determine the areas that would be unsuitable. He felt the department should wait until a spot is requested and then determine if it is unsuitable or not. Rep. Hirsch said this

would be a conceptual thing--standards would be set up which would then be used to determine if a spot is unsuitable. He expanded his substitute motion to strike all of proposal four and then insert "Physical criteria should be established as soon as possible for a siting inventory to identify areas unsuitable for major facilities." A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried with 10 yes, 4 no (Nathe, Curtiss, Burnett, Davis). Absent were Huennekens, Quilici and Kessler.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman

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