

*The Big Sky Country*

MAY 23 1977



MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ARTHUR H. SHELDEN  
DISTRICT NO. 22  
ROUTE 1, BOX 1650  
LIBBY, MONTANA 59923

COMMITTEES:  
NATURAL RESOURCES, CHAIRMAN  
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

April 18, 1977

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM: REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR SHELDEN  
RE: ENERGY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS -- COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

On January 17, 1977 by a motion adopted by the House, the Committee on Natural Resources was assigned the task of reviewing any existing data concerning energy policy in Montana. The motion further stated that upon completion of that review, the committee would propose a legislatively conceived energy policy for Montana. In partial fulfillment of that assignment, you will find the attached energy policy recommendations.

Because of the time constraints involved in transmittal deadlines and the broad range of issues involved in an energy policy, the committee did not produce its own bill, with one exception. Instead the committee relied on bills introduced by members of the legislature at large.

The committee divided into three energy subcommittees, which met regularly during the first half of the session in addition to daily meetings of the full natural resources committee. These subcommittees covered three energy subject groups: conservation and public participation, siting of facilities in Montana, and energy extraction and conversion. The subcommittees reviewed all energy bills and later met to adopt policy recommendations in their respective areas.

The full committee met several times last week to adopt the attached recommendations. Although a few recommendations did not receive unanimous consent, the committee reached a consensus on most issues. These policy recommendations primarily reflect legislation recommended by the committee for passage by the legislature, although some of them were rejected by the legislature as a whole.

I hope you will find these energy policy recommendations useful in making the difficult energy decisions that remain ahead of us. Shortly following the session, committee researchers will prepare a detailed summary of all energy matters considered in this session which will be available to you.

Sincerely,

  
ARTHUR H. SHELDEN, Chairman