

MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
MONTANA STATE SENATE

January 18, 1977

The fourth meeting of the Natural Resources Committee was called to order by Senator Elmer Flynn, Chairman, at 9:30 a. m. on the above date in Room 405 of the State Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll call all members were present.

Mr. Larry Weinberg, Staff Attorney of the Legislative Council, and Tala Skari of the Environmental Quality Council were also present.

CONSIDERATION OF SJR 4: A Joint Resolution Directing That Select Committee of Legislators Study Alternative Forms For The Administration of State Forestry Laws.

Senator John Manley, principle sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, stated that SJR 4 is actually kind of vague in the title where it says "the administration of State Forestry Laws". He stated that actually this is to be a study of the private forest land in the State of Montana so all this Senate Joint Resolution does is appoint a Committee of legislators to go around and meet with private individuals, the logger, the sawmill operator, the whole timber industry to find out what type of legislation, if any, that they feel would be responsible for themselves. Such as, if they had a Board it would be composed of members of the private sector. This Board would go around amongst the industries and meet with these people to find out what type of legislation they would favor, again, if they want any legislation, and especially to come back in two years and tell the Legislature they would like things as they are or they would like a certain thing done.

Mr. Robert Holding, Executive Director of the Montana Wood Products Association from Missoula, said that he would go along with Senator Manley. He stated that they really don't have too many gripes as an industry but that they could see merit in an interim study. He said that in regard to scaling that that was something that the industry was lukewarm about. He said that they have a Yield Tax Bill now, House Bill No. 83, which is a matter of great concern to them.

He stated that he thought the Committee could combine the two effects if they go along with this Senate Joint Resolution. He said that the Montana timber industry is in competition with the entire Northwest. He stated that they are not too healthy right now but that they are trying to get back on their feet. He said that we should try to find out how the small logger can stay in business.

We need many people working in Montana he said. He said we need jobs. He said that we need to see if we can come up with a stable business climate.

Mr. Ted Doney, Acting Director of the Department of Natural Resources, next appeared. He stated that they were a proponent now that Senator Manley had explained the resolution. He said that they fully support the study of forest regulations on private lands. He said the Forest Practices Act has been the subject of controversy for the past two sessions. He stated that they still think the Forest Practices Act is a good idea. He said that either we are going to have one in this state or the government is going to impose one on us. He said that he thought the approach that Senator Manley has taken to study it is the proper approach. He stated that he does support the bill as long as there are amendments. Mr. Doney also said that Mr. Bob Arnold was present.

Senator Flynn then asked who they refer to as the 208 people?

Mr. Doney said that the 208 Study is under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

Senator Roskie asked if Mr. Doney had something in mind in the form of amendments to add to this resolution.

Mr. Doney answered that he really didn't have any today. He thought that something could be worked out with the Staff Attorney.

Senator Manley said that it very definitely is very vague especially in the title. He stated that he should have gotten together with Mr. Doney on this. Senator Manley stated that he would appreciate the bill being held back until amendments are drawn up.

Senator Flynn said it was possible they could hold the Resolution a little while to see if there are other bills coming in on the same subject.

Senator Manley said that he wouldn't be against that. He said that this would give them time to study it further.

Mr. John Delano of the Montana RR Association, added that there is a bill, House Bill No. 68, in on Forest Fire Protection Services.

Senator Galt said this is just going to concern itself with the private sector. Just by nature of it won't it have to go into a little of the state?

Senator Manley said that it could be possible. He said that it would operate as a department. He said that he would like to

see the State Forestry taken out of the Natural Resources.

Senator Galt stated that when you say another Department of state government would you fill up that slot waiting there under Executive Reorganization.

Senator Manley stated that, yes, that is what he would like to do. He said that it is a contributor to the economy of the State of Montana. He said it seems to him that that large an industry should be on the same equal footing with all of the out-going departments. He stated that in Western Montana it is the most important industry that we have. He said that this tremendous boost to our economy should be on an equal basis to livestock and agriculture and should not be hidden down in the corner of the Natural Resources Department.

Senator Flynn asked if it was known what percentage are in the private sector.

Mr. Holding added that because of wilderness withdrawal they have lost 28% of Federal timber supply since 1970. He stated that we are going to have more of that as we have grizzly bear withdrawals now. The industry in Western Montana provides 51% of all jobs he said. He said that he thinks we have got to start to address ourselves to what is happening to Montana's economy.

Senator Flynn stated that he wanted the percentage of private timber.

Mr. Holding stated that he couldn't give him that.

Senator Roskie said that the same thing is going on with oil and gas and minerals. He stated that the availability for land for prospecting has declined to 60% to less than 30% for oil and gas. He said that 60% to 70% of land for prospecting for minerals has been withdrawn.

Mr. Arnold stated that he believes that about 38% of commercial forest land is under private ownership.

Mr. Holding stated that usable Federal acreage is about eight and one-half million.

Senator Roskie asked what is the percentage of state land.

Mr. Arnold said that it was about half a million acres.

At this time Senator Flynn asked what the pleasure of the Committee would be.

After further discussion, Senator Devine moved that action on Senate Joint Resolution No. 4 be delayed so that any bills that come into the Committee dealing with this same subject can be considered and also that the Resolution be amended. Motion was seconded by Senator Dover and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: At this time Senator Smith asked Senator Dover, Chief Sponsor of Senate Bill No. 110, when he would like to schedule this bill for hearing. It was decided to hear Senate Bill No. 110 on Thursday, January 27, 1977 at 9:30 a. m.

After further discussion, Senator Flynn announced that a hearing would be held on Saturday, January 22, 1977 at 9:30 a. m. to consider House Bill No. 16.

At this time, Senator Flynn presented the Committee members with a resume from a gentleman named Thomas Pelletier, a young Researcher, in whom the House Natural Resources Committee seemed quite interested. The House and the Senate Committees would be hiring this young gentleman jointly.

Senator Devine stated that he knew this gentleman and that he would recommend him.

Senator Roskie said that he would like action on employing this gentleman deferred until Thursday.

Senator Flynn said that he would notify him to be here on Thursday.

Senator Roskie stated that he wasn't sure that he would have to be here. He also asked who will finance him - the Legislature?

Senator Flynn said that he thought they could hire him right now.

Senator Galt thought this would have to be passed on by the Legislative Services Committee.


Senator Flynn said that he imagined it would.

Senator Jergeson said that we could probably consider this on Saturday.

Senator Roskie said that he would go along with that.

Motion was made by Senator Dover and seconded by Senator Manley that the resume of Thomas Pelletier be considered on Saturday, January 22, 1977 at 9:30 a. m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion was made by Senator Galt that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Senator Dover and carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a. m.

  
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SENATOR ELMER FLYNN, CHAIRMAN

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Date 1-18-77

[illegible]

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

BILL SJR 4

# VISITORS' REGISTER

DATE 1-18-77

[illegible]

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY

NAME: Bob Helwig DATE: 1-18-77

1-18-77

ADDRESS: 316 Savings Center Bldg.

PHONE: 728 - 3650

REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Road Projects Assoc

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SJR 4

DO YOU: SUPPORT?  AMEND?                      OPPOSE?                     

AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_ OPPOSE? \_\_\_\_\_

**OPPOSE?**

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_



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NAME: Bob Arnold DATE: 1-18-77

ADDRESS: 1936 Dixon Msh

PHONE: 728-4300

REPRESENTING WHOM? DNR - Forestry Div

APPEARING ON WHICH PROPOSAL: SJR 4

DO YOU:    SUPPORT? \_\_\_\_\_                      AMEND? \_\_\_\_\_                      OPPOSE? \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_