

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NATURAL RESOURCES
MONTANA STATE SENATE

April 12, 1977

The thirty-seventh 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 except Senators Devine and Smith.

CONSIDERATION OF HB 592: An Act to amend the Montana Environmental Policy Act; Specifying the duties of the Governor concerning environmental affairs.

Representative Mike Meloy, Sponsor of HB 592, explained the bill and stated that it amends the Montana Environmental Protection Act. This bill puts the responsibility in the lap of the Governor and assures that if there is a conflict it gets resolved.

Mr. Robert Lohn, the Governor's Staff Attorney, stated that they could not be classed as a strong opponent. The question we face in dealing with this proposed legislation is what it will cost us. Within the system of priorities in state government we must decide if this is an essential use of the monies that we have. I ask the Committee should they consider it favorable that they attach to it an appropriate amount of money to fund it.

Mr. Jim Mockler, representing the Montana Coal Council, stated that he was primarily in opposition to this bill. He would like to see it amended if it is passed.

Mr. Peter Jackson, representing Western Environmental Trade Association, stated that he can see here simply another layer of red tape.

Representative Meloy, in closing, stated I am inclined to agree with the Coal Council and WETA. But, the reason you need the rest of the bill there is no requirement that the Governor read these.

Mr. Lohn said, I question the validity of the fiscal note. I don't think the Governor can do this himself. Someone will have to review them for the Governor.

Representative Meloy commented that if you think the bill will not speed up the process then you should give it a Do Not Pass.

At this time the Hearing on HB 592 was concluded.

DISPOSITION OF HB 592: Motion was made by Senator Dover and seconded by Senator Manley that HB 592 BE NOT CONCURRED IN. Five voting yes and Senator Jergeson voting no, the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: There be no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a. m.



SENATOR ELMER FLYNN, CHAIRMAN

ADDRESS: 2531 Gloriat Dr

REPRESENTING WHOM? Montana Coal Council

DO YOU: SUPPORT? _____ AMEND? c OPPOSE? c

COMMENTS: _____

D. R. Lohm

Apr 12

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Governor

HB 592

SUPPORT?

AMEND?

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

Peter Jackson

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HELÉNA MT.

443-5541

Weta

HB 592

OPPOSE?

COMMENTS:

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

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MR. PRESIDENT

We, your committee on NATURAL RESOURCES

having had under consideration HOUSE Bill No. 592

Respectfully report as follows: That HOUSE Bill No. 592,

BE NOT CONCURRED IN

~~DO PASS~~