

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE,  
LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE, FEBRUARY 11, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jacobsen on Friday, February 11, 1983, at 1:40pm in Room 129, State Capitol. All members were present with the exception of Rep. Jensen who was absent.

Prior to the meeting committee members toured the Property Assessment Division of the Department of Revenue, escorted by Division Administrator, Greg Groepper.

REP. SPAETH presented subcommittee findings and recommendations for proposed rule changes on reclassification and valuation of agricultural land in Montana as follows:

1. Prevent any change in rules for the present even though no change is scheduled until 1986, as the Department of Revenue can revise the date at any time, adding David Niss, Legislative Council Attorney, was presently drafting language to this effect.

2. Establish an interim study committee for recommendations, as the rule is broad in nature and the subcommittee did not approve of the capitalization method in determining productivity. He said specific language could be put into the statutes addressing the method to be used.

MR. NISS told the Committee the Legislative Council would need authority from members prior to further action.

REP. SCHULTZ said a resolution would have a chance to be funded and asked committee members to keep this in mind toward the end of session, adding the agricultural community could fund a study if the resolution failed.

CHAIRMAN JACOBSEN said the Committee had already moved to create a Committee bill and asked for a motion on the resolution.

REP. SCHULTZ moved the Committee sponsor a resolution for an interim study committee. Rep. Ryan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Committee.

REP. SCHULTZ explained the resolution would pass through both the House and Senate and then be prioritized by legislators along with other resolutions and that if passed the Speaker would appoint members from the legislative body to study the matter, who in turn, would appoint outside members.

Agriculture Committee Minutes  
February 11, 1983  
Page 2

CHAIRMAN JACOBSEN advised he would send a reminder toward the end of session concerning the resolution and said there was a need to authorize the bill and resolution drafts. He asked the Subcommittee to create the initial draft for the Committee and to comprise a list of interests to be represented on the interim study committee.

REP. BLISS asked if the moratorium could be part of the resolution, to which Chairman Jacobsen replied it could not.

REP. LYBECK commented additional information was needed on the importance of various resolutions.

REP. ROUSH said the said ownership of land acquired by foreigners and non-profit religious groups had nearly doubled in the past few years to approximately 800,000 acres. He suggested the land acquisition issue be incorporated with the rule change draft, if appropriate.

REP. BENGSTON asked if the end result of the study would be the concern with property taxes. Rep. Roush replied the land acquisition study would include taxation and judicial standpoints.

REP. ELLERD asked if the federal tax position were different.

REP. KOEHNKE told the Committee his constituents in Ringling feel a trucker should deposit 75% of the value of grain he ships to insure against loss. Rep. Ellerd said most farmers obtain payment up front and suggested a contract might be the answer.

CHAIRMAN JACOBSEN said more details were needed on the subject. The Committee voted to unanimously approve both a resolution and committee bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

  
REP. GLENN JACOBSEN, CHAIRMAN

Joann T. Gibson, Secretary