

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE,
LIVESTOCK AND IRRIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE, MARCH 2, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roush, on Wednesday, March 2, 1983 at 12:30pm in Room 129, State Capitol. All subcommittee members were present.

MR. JOHN MACMASTER, Legislative Council, explained changes made in the rough draft of the Committee resolution (exhibit).

REP. ERNST asked if Section 7 could also apply to federal taxes. Mr. MacMaster replied the study could include rates for various groups.

REP. ERNST moved the information be included in the bill on page 2, line 7. Rep. Lybeck seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by subcommittee members.

MR. WILL BROOKE, Montana Stock Growers and Wool Growers Associations, told the Subcommittee he questioned the addition of Section 10, page 3, since he was not sure why it was to be included in the study. Chairman Roush advised those with agricultural interests in his district were concerned with disparities between land for various uses and fees charged. Rep. Holliday concurred with Rep. Roush.

MR. BROOKE commented the matter is essentially a study in itself as it is such a large issue. Rep. Lybeck said there would be more time to gather information to be made available to the public, if the issue were included in the study.

MRS. JO BRUNNER, Women Involved in Farm Economics, said many agricultural organizations had requested an interim study on leasing and when the bills were killed, the Department of Revenue promised to study the situation.

REP. JACOBSEN told the Committee differences in rates should be expanded upon. Chairman Roush replied too much involvement in lease fees would overshadow the original purpose of the resolution.

REP. HOLLIDAY asked Mr. Brooke if he would prefer other language in Section 10 or that it be dropped. Mr. Brooke replied Section 10 needed more direction.

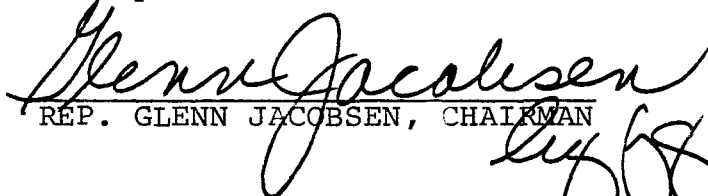
REP. ERNST told the Subcommittee the section should remain, adding the legislative process could deal with the issue.

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REP. LYBECK commented the study should be a random sampling of issues, with all aspects considered. Rep. Hanson advised him the Montana Stockgrowers had completed a study on the matter.

REP. LYBECK moved the Subcommittee approve the changes made to the committee draft. Rep. Hanson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.


REP. GLENN JACOBSEN, CHAIRMAN

Joann T. Gibson, Secretary

3-2-83

1 ----- JOINT RESOLUTION NO. -----

2 INTRODUCED BY -----

3

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN
6 INTERIM STUDY OF OWNERSHIP OF MONTANA FARMLAND AND
7 RANCHLAND, TAXES PAID BY THE OWNERS, USE OF THE LAND, AND
8 STATE LAWS BENEFITING THE OWNERS; AND REQUIRING A WRITTEN
9 REPORT OF THE STUDY TO THE 49TH LEGISLATURE.

10

11 WHEREAS, agriculture is a major industry in Montana;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, corporate and nonresident ownership of Montana
14 farmland and ranchland is widespread and increasing; and

15 ~~WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of~~
16 ~~Montana to regulate agriculture and corporations engaged in~~
17 ~~agriculture; and~~

18 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the people of
19 Montana to ensure that each person and each taxable entity
20 pays its just share of income and property taxes.

21

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
23 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

24 That an appropriate interim committee be assigned to
25 study and determine:

or leased

1 (1) the amount of Montana farmland and ranchland owned_Λ
2 the various types of
3 by profit and nonprofit corporations, both domestic and
4 foreign; by individual persons, both resident and
5 nonresident; and by foreign nationals;

6 (2) the percentage of each type of farmland and
7 ranchland ^{or leased} owned_Λ by each class of persons and entities
8 referred to in (1);

9 (3) the increase, over the past years, of ownership_Λ ^{and leasing} of
10 farmland and ranchland by each class of persons and entities
11 referred to in (1);

12 (4) the location of farmlands and ranchlands owned_Λ ^{or leased} by
13 each class of persons and entities referred to in (1);

14 (5) the uses of farmlands and ranchlands owned_Λ ^{or leased} by each
15 class of persons and entities referred to in (1);

16 (6) property taxes paid by each class of persons and
17 entities referred to in (1);

18 (7) the income of ^{federal} and state income taxes paid by each
19 class of persons and entities referred to in (1) and the
20 various state income tax breaks granted such persons and
21 entities;

22 (8) the types and amounts of state ~~energy~~ ^{and} assistance
23 ~~and other assistance~~ granted to each class of persons and
24 entities referred to in (1);

25 (9) loan programs, both state and private, benefiting
each class of persons and entities referred to in (1);

(10) leasing of state, federal and private land to farmers and ranchers and the rental or fees charged; and

11

1 (10) any other appropriate matters relating to the
2 resolution of problems detected in studying and determining
3 the matters set forth in (1) through (9).

4 That the interim committee provide an outline and time
5 frame for its study, schedule meetings of the committee, and
6 provide the 49th Legislature with a written report of its
7 study, findings, and conclusions, and with drafts of
8 legislation that may be necessary to implement the
9 committee's findings.

-End-