

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & IRRIGATION
MONTANA STATE CAPITOL

March 4, 1983

The Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Committee meeting was called to order on the above date, in Room 415 of the State Capitol Building, at 1:00 p.m., by Chairman Galt.

ROLL CALL: Senators Lane and Kolstad absent, all other members present.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 509: Representative Tom Asay, HD 50, explained the bill, a measure to allow counties that desire, and meet criteria, to have a conservation district divided into 7 supervisor district areas. The prime reason for this is they are now in the process of having a mill and a half assessed to loan out to various farmers in the area for water projects. This bill will enable them to handle that part of the project better.

Steve Meyer, MACD, urged a do pass. Exhibit #1.

Ray Beck, Conservation District Division, Department of Natural Resources, said the Department supports the bill and they feel this will assist districts that do not have incorporated districts.

There were no opponents.

Senator Aklestad inquired about the bill the committee had the other day that cut the districts from 5 to 3 and how that worked with this bill.

Representative Asay was not familiar with that bill.

Mr. Beck answered that bill only managed areas within a conservation district; this bill manages elected supervisors.

Senator Ochsner asked where the money came from. Mr. Beck's answer was, a mill and a half can be assessed for this purpose. It goes into a fund to be loaned in a revolving fund for participators to encourage irrigation projects.

Senator Aklestad wanted to know who was going to administer the program. Mr. Beck said it will be the local conservation districts. It will be in an amendment in HB 349.

The Hearing on HB 509 was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL 743: Representative Aubyn Curtiss, HD 20, explained that HB 743 came about because of the increasing problem of trespass on state forest service and private properties. Illegal taking of trees not only defrauds a person of their property, but defaces the trees. The bill will not harm lawful transporters. It will provide enforcement people with a tool.

Gary Brown, State Forester, Department of State Lands, said there are 1/2 million acres of forest land. The bill is important in

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Christmas tree season. The trees can come from anywhere. If a theft occurs, the law enforcement authorities can ask for a bill of sale with this.

Robert Holding, Attorney, Montana Wood Products Association, supported the bill.

There were no opponents.

Senator Ochsner asked if this just pertained to state and federal lands. He was told it also covers private land.

Representative Curtiss said the Montana Logging Association also supported the bill.

Senator Ochsner asked who is going to enforce this and how is it going to be done. Representative Curtiss answered that right now they don't have the authority to stop them and this bill gives law enforcement people this authority.

In closing, Representative Curtiss said there are a lot of private owners affected by this who couldn't come to Helena. She said they were counting on the Legislature to do this for them.

Representative Curtiss presented an amendment pertaining to the roadways where theft takes place. She said it didn't meet the definition of highways. Amendment, Exhibit #2.

The hearing closed on HB 743.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 27: Representative John Shontz, HD 53, told the committee they have the Western Plains Research Center in Sidney, Montana. The average annual loss to farmers from saline seep exceeds \$62 million. The Research Center also is the only center in the country suited to conduct spring and winter wheat remote sensing research. They work with NASA to develop ultra violet light, as well.


Steve Meyer, MACD, supported the bill.

Senator Aklestad asked how much money the feds were putting into the program. Representative Shontz answered, two million. He said Representative Marlenee and the Montana congressional delegation are working closely on this project.

Senator Tveit was in favor of the bill and, as a co-signer, he would carry the bill on the floor.

The hearing closed on HJR 27.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Jack E. Galt, Chairman

ROLL CALL

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
GALT, Jack E.	✓		
KOLSTAD, Allen C.		✓	
AKLESTAD, Gary C.	✓		
OCHSNER, J. Donald	✓		
GRAHAM, Carroll	✓		
BOYLAN, Paul F.	✓		
CONOVER, Max	✓		
LANE, Leo		✓	
LEE, Gary	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

DATE March 4, 1983

COMMITTEE ON Agriculture

VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
Steve Maye	MSD	HB 509	✓	
Ray Beck	CDD / DNRC	HB 509	X	
Gary G. Brown	State Forester, DSL	HB-743	✓	
Tom Doan	Rep. Dist D-	HB 509	✓	
P. E. Hendry	MT. Wood Products Assn.	HB 743	✓	
KEITH OLSON	MT. LOGGING ASSN	HB 743	✓	



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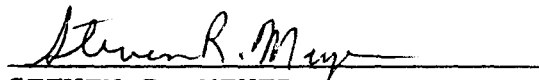
Mr. Chairman, Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

I am Steve Meyer, representing the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

We have endorsed the proposal embodied in HB 509 by resolution at our November convention. This Act will allow districts to increase the elected members of their board, but only if there are no incorporated cities within the district boundaries. This will allow for better representation of resource problems, especially in the large districts. We don't feel that there will be any problem with the size of the board because districts that include incorporated cities already have seven members, 5 elected and 2 appointed by the city council.

We urge a "Do Pass" on HB 509.

Thank you.


STEVEN R. MEYER
Executive Vice President

SRM:dv

House Bill 743 be amended as follows:

Page 2, line 14, after The,

Strike: "highways", Insert: "ways".

Add subsection (4) definition "ways of the state means"

Renumber remaining section .

(6) "Ways of this state open to the public" means any highway, road, alley, lane, parking area, or other public or private place adapted and fitted for public travel that is in common use by the public with the express or implied consent of the owner.