

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE  
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By Senator Thomas F. Keating, on January 6,  
1989, at 1 pm in Room 405 of the State Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Thomas F. Keating, Larry Tveit,  
Fred Van Valkenburg, Bill Yellowtail, Cecil Weeding,  
Dorothy Eck, Jerry Noble.

Members Excused: Loren Jenkins

Members Absent: Darryl Meyer, Pete Story, Lawrence Stimatz,  
Elmer Severson

Staff Present: Bob Thompson and Helen McDonald

Announcements/Discussion: Senator Keating opened the first  
meeting of the Natural Resources Committee at 1 pm. He  
introduced the senate members and staff. Bob Thompson  
will be our legal counsel and resource person. Mr.  
Thompson is experienced because he served with this  
committee in 1985.

The committee will start on time even if there isn't a  
quorum, though Sen. Keating said he will wait for  
quorums for executive sessions.

It has been Senator's Keating practice in the past to  
take the bills as soon as they come in, post the  
hearings, and try to handle them with dispatch.  
Senator Keating mentioned a deadline of the 35th day  
for all of the bills and, therefore, the need to handle  
them expediently. Unless there is a real crunch or

something so simple that it doesn't take a lot of thought or discussion, the committee may take executive action on a bill the day that it is heard if the load isn't too heavy and it is a simple matter. But other than that, Sen. Keating would like to wait at least one meeting to let everybody digest what they have heard before an executive session is held on bills.

As has been the practice before, Sen. Keating would prefer that all of those who give testimony be either a proponent or opponent. If someone says he is neither a proponent nor opponent and it becomes extremely obvious that his testimony is one way or the other, Sen. Keating will declare that the records show him as either a proponent or opponent. Sen. Keating thinks the public needs to know what that person's stance is in the event it becomes obvious.

As far as voting, if someone is not present at the time of the vote in the executive session, the motion will be left open for at least 24 hours until that person can vote. But in the event of an excused absence or even an unexcused absence for some unknown reason, he thinks it's fair that we allow everybody to cast their vote.

Senator Keating said in case of amendments members must be present for final action on the bill. All members should be aware of any amendments. When a committee member is aware of the amendments and wants to cast his vote, and wants to vote with an excused absence, he will accept their proxy.

We will have half an hour for proponents and half an hour for the opponents with 15 minutes for questions and answers. Senator Keating prefers that the committee hold its questions until both proponents and opponents have made their presentations. During executive session, the interested parties are often in the room again. However, in an executive session the public is not allowed to speak unless a member of the committee asks the person a question. The committee members may ask questions of the observers during executive session.

There will be a tour of the Montana Tunnels gold mine, which is 20 miles down the road at Jefferson City, on Monday, January 9 from noon to 2:30 pm, courtesy of Pegasus Gold Corporation. A bus will be at the north door of the capitol at noon and a box lunch will be served on the bus. All senators are welcome.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

January 6, 1989

Page 3 of 3

Senator Keating stated that the committee will begin work on our bills on Wednesday. A hearing on two bills has been scheduled.

Adjournment At: 1:20 pm

  
THOMAS F. KEATING, Chairman

hmc/TFK

senmin.106

ROLL CALL

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

51~~st~~ LEGISLATIVE SESSION -- 1989

Date 1-6-89

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Chairman Tom Keating	✓		
Vice-Chairman Larry Tveit	✓		
Senator Fred VanValkenburg	✓		
Senator Loren Jenkins			✓
Senator Darryl Meyer		✓	
Senator Lawrence Stimatz		✓	
Senator Pete Story		✓	
Senator Bill Yellowtail	✓		
Senator Elmer Severson		✓	
Senator Cecil Weeding	/		
Senator Dorothy Eck	/		
Senator Jerry Noble	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

DATE 1-6-89

COMMITTEE ON

Natural Resources

### VISITORS' REGISTER

NAME	REPRESENTING	BILL #	Check One	
			Support	Oppose
<i>L. Wolfe</i>	<i>Self</i>	<i>meeting 1st</i>		
<i>Burke Galtier</i>	<i>Self</i>	<i>meeting 1st</i>		

(Please leave prepared statement with Secretary)