

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Call to Order: By Vice Chairman Devlin, on January 20,
1989, at 1:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senators: Hubert Abrams, Gary Aklestad,
Esther Bengtson, Gerry Devlin, Jack Galt, Greg
Jergeson, Gene Thayer, Gene Thayer, Bob Williams,
Chairman.

Members Excused: None

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Doug Sternberg, Legislative Council

Announcements/Discussion: There was an announcement that
there would be a sturgeon slide show after the
testimony of HB 18 was presented. Also, Chairman Beck
reminded those who were going to the Montana State
University vs University of Montana game that the
tickets were \$10 each. In addition, the Senate
Agriculture Committee is invited to tour the Montana
State University Agriculture Department February 4. A
no host dinner is being scheduled for the committee
members and staff.

HEARING ON HOUSE BILL 18

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor:

Representative Chuck Swysgood, District 73, indicated
the bill is an act to transfer the Montana Agriculture
Development Council from the Department of Commerce to
the Department of Agriculture. "By rights in the '87
session when we passed this bill through Agriculture
Act this entity should have been located in the
Department of Agriculture instead of the Department of
Commerce."

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Ralph Peck representing the Montana Department of
Agriculture

John Maloney representing the Montana Department of Commerce

Lorna Frank representing the Montana Farm Bureau
Jo Brunner representing the Montana Growth Through
Agriculture Council

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

None

Testimony:

Proponents:

Ralph Peck indicated that the Montana Department of
Agriculture does support this bill. See exhibit 1.

John Maloney stated that the Montana Department of Commerce
fully supports House Bill 18.

Lorna Frank, see exhibit 2.

Jo Brunner, see exhibit 3.

Questions From Committee Members: Senator Bengtson asked Jo
Brunner "How many people sit on that council; other
than just preliminary meetings outlining their goals
are you on hold until you can get the seed capital, is
that it?" She replied, "No we're not. We have worked
and are able to make the rules and regulations to get
the net approved towards the incubator and the
marketing... To answer your other question; there are 7
that sit on the council."

Closing by Sponsor: Rep. Swysgood stated, "As it has been
testified, I think there is total support for the
movement of this entity from the Commerce Department to
the Department of Agriculture...As also testified this
was a 4 prong program and 3 of the prongs has already
been addressed. The seed capital because of the
decision of the Supreme Court has tied that up because
of the seed capital. Part of this was so closely tied
to the mechanics of the science and technology that it
hasn't been able to go. So when that's addressed,
hopefully I'll be before you here again."

DISPOSITION OF HOUSE BILL 18

Discussion: Senator Jergeson offered to help Senator Beck
carry the bill.

Amendments and Votes: None

Recommendation and Vote: Senator Devlin moved that HB 18 Do Pass; it was seconded by Senator Aklestad. HB 18 passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 1:40 p.m.


TOM BECK, Chairman

TB/jj

ROLL CALL

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

DATE 1/20/89

51st LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1989

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SENATOR HUBERT ABRAMS	✓		
SENATOR GARY AKLESTAD	✓		
SENATOR ESTHER BENGTSON	✓		
SENATOR GERRY DEVLIN	✓		
SENATOR JACK GALT	✓		
SENATOR GREG JERGESON	✓		
SENATOR GENE THAYER	✓		
SENATOR BOB WILLIAMS	✓		
SENATOR TOM BECK	✓		

Each day attach to minutes.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

January 20, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, having had under consideration HB 18 (third reading copy -- blue), respectfully report that HB 18 be concurred in.

Sponsor: Swysgood (Beck)

BE CONCURRED IN

Signed: _____
Thomas A. Beck, Chairman



STAN STEPHENS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
AGRICULTURE/LIVESTOCK BLDG.
CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0201

SENATE AGRICULTURE
EXHIBIT NO. 1
DATE 1/20/89
BILL NO. HB 18
TELEPHONE:
AREA CODE 406
444-3144

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EVERETT M. SNORTLAND
DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOR THE SENATE AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE
ON HOUSE BILL 18
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 1989
HELENA, MONTANA

Chairman Beck and members of the committee. The Montana Department of Agriculture supports House Bill 18 providing for the transfer of the Montana Agriculture Development Council from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture.

The state agency with primary statutory responsibility for the promotion of agriculture in Montana is the Montana Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development Division is directed by statute and currently provides agricultural program and support staff in the directly related fields of domestic and international agricultural marketing, agricultural finance and related capital markets.

The Agriculture Development Council and Montana's rural communities will benefit from the existing cooperative relations that exist between the Department of Agriculture, agribusiness, producers, the University system and other agricultural organizations and groups.

Agricultural producers, marketers, and those involved with innovative agricultural concepts naturally want to work with the Department of Agriculture for the expertise and understanding of agricultural people. State departments of agriculture are the

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contacts used by international and domestic government agencies, producers, and agribusiness for liaison on agricultural trade, marketing issues and development. The Department of Agriculture is closely associated with USDA agencies and the Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) programs as well as various agricultural marketing organizations such as the Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA). WUSATA is one of the cooperator programs established between the Montana Department of Agriculture and the USDA. All U.S. embassies have an Agricultural Attache attached to them that reports to the Foreign Agriculture Service, USDA and is the primary network between trade leads back to the State Departments of Agriculture.

The Department of Commerce, Council members and Agricultural organizations and other groups have generally expressed agreement to move the council. The support for and rationale behind moving the Agriculture Development Council are very similar to the response generated when the Carter administration attempted to move the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) from the USDA to the U.S. Department of Commerce. It was concluded that agricultural specialists were in a better position to promote and expand agricultural exports than personnel in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

For these reasons the Montana Department of Agriculture supports House Bill 18.



MONTANA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

502 South 19th • Bozeman, Montana 59715
Phone: (406) 587-3153

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXHIBIT NO. 2
DATE 1/20/88
BILL NO. HB 18

BILL # H.B. 18 ; TESTIMONY BY: Lorna Frank
DATE Jan. 20, 1988 ; SUPPORT Yes ; OPPOSE _____

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record, my name is Lorna Frank, representing the Montana Farm Bureau and the following members of the Agriculture Coalition, the Farm Bureau, Grain Growers, Dairymen, Stock Growers, Women Involved in Farm Economics or WIFE, Public Lands Council, Montana Association of State Grazing Districts, Farmers Union, Cattle Feeders, Cattlemen, Grange, and Cattle Women.

The Agriculture Coalition worked hard during the 50th. Legislative session to pass the "Growth through Agriculture" act, setting up the Montana Agriculture Development Council. At that time we wanted the bill administered by the Department of Agriculture and still do.

The Coalition feels that since the original bill was intended to aid rural people and communities, the Department of Agriculture should oversee the program. They have the expertise and knowledge to administer the program and understand rural problems.

We urge this committee to concur with House Bill 18.

SIGNED: Lorna Frank

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DATE__Jan. 24 1989

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COMMITTEE_ Senate Agriculture

NAME__ Jo Brunner

REPRESENTS_Self on Montana Growth Through Agriculture Council

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Jo Brunner and I testify at this committee meeting today as a member of the Montana Growth Through Agriculture Council.

Some of you may recall that in the 1987 Legislative Session, I worked Representative Winslows bill that became this law along with other members of the Montana Agriculture Coalition. You may also remember that the bill was one the Coalition supported unanimously.

Eventually, with the support of the Coalition and several legislators, the Governor appointed me to sit on the Council. I represent the Montana Agriculture Coalition on the Council, and my decisions, to a great extent are made in consultation with Coalition members or within policies that Coalition organizations as a whole adhere to.

To further refresh your memory, the Coalition was so dedicated to this endeavor, we made the commitment that if we could not see progress, or if the law did not do what we expected it to do, we would come back in and oppose further funding.

Now it would be foolish to say there have not been problems or that the frustration of waiting for the bureacracy to evolve was not a tremendous task in itself. But, with perserverance and a great deal of impatient patience you can see, by the Coalition testimony that we are continuing to support the Council.

However, even the earliest discussions on the bill included the necessity of removing the Council from Department of Commerce to the Department of Agriculture. It was accepted by the Coalition during the '87 session that the Legislature would not have passed any bill which required more funding for agriculture within the ag. department itself, and when the Department of Commerce agreed to accept the Council within its programs, we took advantage, and we want the Commerece

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Department to know we appreciate that..

The Coalition feels, as has been indicated here, that the correct, and most beneficial position for the Montana Growth Through Agriculture Council should be in the Montana Agriculture Department, with cooperation by Department of Commerce, which we are assured will continue.

Since our earliest meetings, the members of the Montana Growth Through Agriculture Council have discussed moving the Council into the Agriculture Department, and to the best of my knowledge all members agreed on, and supported that move.

The Agriculture Department is developing marketing and assistance programs as part of their duties within the law and is working with Extension Service and MSU and other related interests in order to eliminate duplication and to foster cooperation, which will in turn keep down expenses.

Whatever problems have existed in the past, are in the past, and we hope to be able to surmount even the Supreme Court decision that held the seed capital portion of the program hostage. We know, by the amount of requests that have been submitted, the information concerning future requests, specifically on the seed capital poration, not to mention the interest that we have at each Council meeting, that this is indeed a good and viable program, and will be productive to our communities.

And we certainly believe that having the program within the Department of Agriculture will enable the Council to proceed with the business even more quickly.

I ask that you do approve this request and that the effective date be immediately upon passage. We frankly need to get on with the business at hand.

AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE

BILL #: HB 18

SPONSOR: Stuppard

DATE: 1/20/89

HEARING #: _____

AMENDMENTS VOTE

DATE HEARD	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	DO PASS AS AMENDED	DO NOT PASS AMENDED	ASSIGN TO
<u>1/20</u>					_____

MOVED _____

SECONDED _____

MOVED _____

SECONDED _____

MOVED _____

SECONDED _____

VOTING ON THE BILL

DATE HEARD	<u>DO PASS</u>	DO NOT PASS	DO PASS AS AMENDED	DO NOT PASS AMENDED	ASSIGN TO
_____					<u>Beck</u>

MOVED Ouelin

SECONDED Attestad

Discussion of the bill

