

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE
51st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

Call to Order: By Senator Tom Rasmussen, on February 11, 1989, at 11:00 in Room 325 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Senators Rasmussen, Mazurek,

Members Excused:

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Elaine Graveley, Secretary

Announcements/Discussion:

HEARING ON SJR 3

Presentation and Opening Statement by Sponsor: Senator Ton Rasmussen of Senate District 22, the chief sponsor of Senate Joint Resolution No. 3, gave a brief resume of the bill. This is a joint resolution of the House and Senate authorizing the Montana Centennial Commission to declare the 1894 capital city election between Anaconda and Helena void; scheduling a special election in conjunction with the 1989 Centennial celebration to allow the people of Montana to choose a permanent Montana capital; and providing for the temporary suspension of Montana voting statutes.

List of Testifying Proponents and What Group they Represent:

Senator J. D. Lynch of Senate District No. 34
Senator Bob Pipinich of Senate District No. 33

List of Testifying Opponents and What Group They Represent:

Pat Verzani for Kay Oss - Capital City '89ers
Kelly Antos - Jefferson School
Kristin Killen - Jefferson School
Travis Owens - Jefferson School
Carla Era - Jefferson School
Heather Lyon - Jefferson School
Andy Gordon - Jefferson School
Elizabeth Peterson - Jefferson School

Eric Ashley - Jefferson School
Katie Gilchrist - Jefferson School
Kelly Grinde - Jefferson School
Colby Era - Jefferson School
Kelly Casey - Jefferson School
Tavin Haas - Jefferson School
Kinsey Casey - Jefferson School
Dylan Kilmer - Jefferson School
Jeremy LaFaver - Jefferson School

Testimony:

Pat Verzani on behalf on Kay Oss stood as an proponent to the bill. She stated that on behalf on the Helena '89'ers she urged the committee to vote for the resolution with some changes which will broaden the scope of the impact. The purpose in requesting this legislation was to allow communities throughout the state to focus on this unique event in the state's history and maximize the potential for educating and involving the younger citizens in a Centennial project as well as to promote new kinds of fundraising opportunities. This resolution does that. She offered amendments. See attachments. (Exhibit 1)

Senator J. D. Lynch of Senate District No. 34, stood in support of the bill. He stated that he is proud to represent the sacred city of Anaconda. He would like to see a new election to set the record straight. He would sincerely appreciate the support of the committee and later the entire Senate. He thanked everyone for taking an interest in the history of Montana. He agrees with the amendments.

Senator Bob Pipinich of Senate District No. 33, stood in support of the bill. He stated that he was born and raised in the "beautiful" city of Anaconda. He felt that it was time to take the capital city back "home" where it belongs.

OPPONENTS:

Kelly Antos from Jefferson School stood in opposition to the bill. She asked the committee to vote "no" on the bill to have an election for Anaconda to be the capital, even if it's just for fun. Let's leave the past the way it is. Helena should stay the capital of the state because it is in the center of the state and everyone makes an extra effort to take good care of it. Anaconda isn't in the center of the state and it is so small. The capital belongs in Helena! Please vote a do

not pass on this bill, was his request of the committee.

Erick Ashley from Jefferson School asked the committee to vote against the bill. Helena should be the capital because it has always been the capitol, all the government buildings are in Helena and many historical buildings such as the governor's mansion are here. It is also almost impossible to move the capitol or build a new one. Anaconda should not be capital because it is too small. They would also probably need to move several beautiful buildings to make room for the capitol.

Katie Gilchrist, a student from Jefferson School, stood in opposition to the bill. She stated that the whole thing between Helena and Anaconda is not necessary. Helena won in 1894 and it should be kept in Helena, it was earned.

Travis Owens stated that he would like to convince the committee to keep Helena as the state capital. The reason is if Anaconda had the capital 20,227 people would have to move. As it is now no one would have to move.

Heather Lyon from Jefferson School, urged the committee to vote against the resolution. She stated that it would cost too much money and people would have to move to Anaconda or quit working and find a new job.

Andry Gordon stated that Helena needs something to be proud of. If people really think about the capital in Helena they will like it here. "We have some really neat stuff in MONTANA and the capital being in Helena is one of them", she commented. The vote in 1891 was fair and the choice was Helena. The choice is still Helena. Why build another one when everything we need is already here?

Elizabeth Peterson commented that Helena has been the capital for a long time, so why does Anaconda want it now? It would cost too much to move the capital and it is a part of Helena's history.

Kelly Grinde, a fifth grader at Jefferson School, stated that Helena is a beautiful place to be. There are so many people and there is not much smoke. She asked the committee to please vote for Helena to be the capital.

Kelly Casey from Jefferson School stated that Helena should be the capital because it is a better place to live and

it is a bigger city. Anaconda shouldn't be the capital because it just wants more jobs and people there. Kelly stated that she agrees that Helena and Anaconda cheated but she does not want to loose the capital to Anaconda especially. Anaconda doesn't need the capital anyway, they just think it will make their city bigger.

Tavin Haas, a fifth grader from Jefferson School, stood in opposition to the bill. He stated that if there was an election Helena would definitely win.

Colby Era stated that he does not want Anaconda to be the capital, it would take Helena's pride away. You would feel like shriveling up and dying if Anaconda won even a mock election.

Kinsey Casey stated that it would cost too much money to move the capital. Besides it is already in Helena. The election was won in 1984.

Dylan Kilmer stood in opposition to the bill. He stated that it would cost too much to move the capital. Please vote for Helena to stay the capital. Anaconda is too small and has too much pollution.

John Farrell, the principal for the Jefferson School thanked the sponsor of the resolution and the committee for helping the students with their legislative lesson. He stated that he is neither an opponent or a proponent.

Questions From Committee Members:

Senator Mazurek asked Kelly Grinde if she would feel differently about the resolution if it was her hometown of Lewistown being considered. She replied that she thinks Helena is a beautiful city and a good place for the capital.

Senator Lynch suggested to the opponents that they should keep an open mind as Anaconda is a very beautiful city.

Senator Pipinich stated that with the "stack" no longer in use, Anaconda does not have a pollution problem as being suggested by some of the opponents. Helena seems to have a pollution problem at the present time.

Closing by Sponsor:

Senator Rasmussen applauded the spirit of "fair play" of those testifying. He suggested that there is a lot of work to be done for Helena to remain the capital, if this

resolution is passed

DISPOSITION OF SJR 3

Discussion:

Amendments and Votes:

Recommendation and Vote: The committee was polled at a later date and voted unanimously to give Senate Joint Resolution a DO PASS recommendation.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment At: 11:45



SENATOR TOM RASMUSSEN, Chairman

TR/eg

senmin.211

2/11/89

SJR 12 WAS APPROVED BY A POLL OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. NO HEARING WAS HELD ON SJR 12, A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE BRASS PLAQUES TO COMMEMORATE THE STATE CENTENNIAL.

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 15, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration, having had under consideration SJR 3 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SJR 3 be amended and as so amended do pass:

1. Title, line 6.
Following: "COMMISSION"
Insert: "ON APRIL 1, 1989"

2. Page 3, line 1.
Following: "on"
Strike: "April"
Insert: "June"

3. Page 6, line 2.
Following: "held"
Strike: "April"
Insert: "June"

AND AS AMENDED DO PASS

Signed: _____

Tom Rasmussen

Tom Rasmussen, Chairman

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

February 16, 1989

MR. PRESIDENT:

We, your committee on Legislative Administration, having had under consideration SJR 12 (first reading copy -- white), respectfully report that SJR 12 do pass.

DO PASS

Signed: 

Tom Rasmussen, Chairman

SJR 3
2-11-89

Joint Resolution Testimony

From Kay Oss

I apologize for being unable to attend this hearing, but at times my real life interferes with my alter ego.

On behalf of the Helena '89'ers I urge you to vote for the resolution before you with some changes which we feel will broaden the scope of the impact.

Our purpose in requesting this legislation was to allow communities throughout the state to focus on this unique event in our State' history and maximize the potential for educating and involving our younger citizens in a Centennial project as well as to promote new kinds of fundraising opportunities. This resolution does that.

We however request that the following changes be made:

1. Page 1 line 6: after the word Commission insert on April 1, 1989
2. Page 3 line 1 change "On April 1" to 'on June 1, 1989
3. Page 6 line 2 change April 1, 1989 to "June 1, 1989"

SJR 3

2-11-89

Andy Gordon

PS 1

To say Andy

Helena needs something to be proud of. If people really think about the capital in Helena they will like it here. We have some really neat stuff in Montana and the capital being Helena is one of them. We feel the vote in 1891 was fair and the choice was Helena.

The choice today is still Helena. Why build another one when everything we need already here.

3-R

Elizabeth

Helena has had the capital for a long time so why does Ansonia want it now? (It would cost to much to move the capital ^{and from} where it is to. We have the capital for 100 years and it is part of Helena's history.

2/11/89

THE EXHIBITS FOR SJR 3 ALSO INCLUDE 49 LETTERS WRITTEN BY JEFFERSON SCHOOL STUDENTS ON 5 x 8 INDEX CARDS. THE ORIGINALS ARE HOUSED AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

VISITORS' REGISTER

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE

BILL SJ-3

DATE 2/11/89

SPONSOR Rasmussen

NAME	REPRESENTING	RESIDENCE	SUPPORT	OPPOS
Pat Verzani for Kay Oss	Capital City '89ers	Helena	✓	
Kelly Antos	Jefferson School	Helena		✓
Kristin Kilbon	Jefferson School	Helena	✓	
Travis Owens	Jefferson School	Helena		✓
Carla Erv	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Heather Lizon	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Andy Gordon	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Elizabeth Peterson	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Eric Ashler	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Katie Betchrist	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Kelly Brinde	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Colby Erg	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Kelly Casey	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Tavin Haas	Jefferson	Helena	✓	✓
Kinsey Casey	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Dylan Kilmer	Jefferson	Helena		✓
Jeremy LaFaver	Jefferson	Helena		✓

IF YOU CARE TO WRITE COMMENTS, ASK SECRETARY FOR LONGER FORM.

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH SECRETARY.