

**MINUTES**

**MONTANA SENATE  
54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Call to Order:** By **CHAIRMAN LORENTS GROSFIELD**, on January 18,  
1995, at 1:00 PM

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Lorents Grosfield, Chairman (R)  
Sen. Larry J. Tveit, Vice Chairman (R)  
Sen. Mack Cole (R)  
Sen. William S. Crismore (R)  
Sen. Mike Foster (R)  
Sen. Thomas F. Keating (R)  
Sen. Ken Miller (R)  
Sen. Vivian M. Brooke (D)  
Sen. B.F. "Chris" Christiaens (D)  
Sen. Jeff Weldon (D)  
Sen. Bill Wilson (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Todd Everts, Environmental Quality Council  
Theda Rossberg, Committee Secretary

**Please Note:** These are summary minutes. Testimony and  
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing: SB 128, HB 72, HB 80  
Executive Action:

*{Tape: 1; Side: A.}*

**HEARING ON SB 128**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

**SEN GREG JERGESON, SENATE DISTRICT 46**, said last session he served on the Natural Resources Subcommittee. One of the subjects that was dealt with was the budget in the Department of State Lands for fire suppression on state lands. Coming from the

plains of Eastern Montana, fire suppression was not a familiar subject. He said in his county a portion of the taxes goes into the local fire fund. It was discussed how the current system worked with the assessment of 17¢ acre with a minimum of \$20. That was okay many years ago when land was primarily wild lands. The concern now is the construction of cabins and structures on those lands. When there is a fire, those people expect fire protection. Fighting fires on wild lands is considerably different than protecting a structure, and the cost is considerably higher. The costs of fighting those kinds of fires is very high. The reason for SB 46 is to add a surcharge on a residential improved lot or land parcel. Currently a structure on a parcel of leased land doesn't pay anything towards fire suppression, because the landowner is paying the seventeen cents per acre and the owner of the structure is paying nothing. State Lands is expected to protect that property as well in case the fire is moving toward that structure. SB 128 would assess the owner of the structure with a surcharge for fire protection. A portion of the surcharge will go toward administrative costs, but most of the assessment will go into the fire suppression fund.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

**Tim Murphy, Fire Management Bureau Chief, Department of State Lands** said the department protects the natural resources of the state from wild fires. Under 5.2 million acres of state and private lands are within the fire districts. He said residential developments are increasing in those areas and increase the potential for loss of life and property threatened by wild fires. Small subdivided parcels usually have residents or other improvements that increase property value. Because of the potential of risk those areas are a higher priority for available fire fighting resources. Other western states are also experiencing increased costs in wild land fire suppression. Currently Idaho has a \$10 surcharge, Oregon has a \$38 surcharge, and Washington is considering legislation to enact a surcharge.

**Mr. Murphy** said the Department of State Lands currently maintains an assessment program on owners of forested land receiving fire protection. Those owners pay a specific fee for the protection of the forested lands. The fee comprises approximately one third of the department's annual budget. The majority of the fire suppression costs are from the state general fund. The enactment of a \$20 surcharge on owners and lessees within residential improvements on state and private forested lands would offset a portion of the burden on the general fund.

**John Shontz, Montana Association of Realtors,** said that SB 128 was a reasonable approach toward the funding for fighting fires, because the burden should be assessed on those that are benefiting from the fire fighting.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. CRISMORE said in his area there is a lot of Forest Service land that falls under the Forest Service fire protection. He asked if those people that are not under state fire protection would also be assessed. Mr. Murphy said private lands that the federal agencies enforce are through a subcontract with the Department of State Lands. The surcharge that is assessed the residents would be deposited into the general fund. The Forest Service would not be charged any assessment.

SEN. CRISMORE asked Mr. Murphy if the cabins on state lands would be assessed the fire suppression fee. Mr. Murphy replied those structures would be assessed the surcharge.

SEN. TOM KEATING asked Mr. Murphy how many buildings would be involved. Mr. Murphy said presently there are 46,000 people on the fire assessment roles, and 630 lessees on state forest land. It is estimated that at least half of the forested acres have improvements on them and seventy five percent of the leases have improvements. The department estimates that approximately \$400,000 would be generated each year.

SEN. CHRISTIANS asked SEN. JERGESON how the \$20 assessment fee per parcel was arrived at. SEN. JERGESON replied after the fire season was over the Department of State lands discussed several different ways that were approached in the bill. They reviewed what the other states were assessing and proposing to assess, and decided that the \$20 fee was reasonable. SEN. CHRISTIANS said in the Finance and Claims Committee there was mention of \$35 per parcel. He asked if that was a projected fee. SEN. JERGESON said \$35 may have been the projected cost in a high fire year such as last year, but in an average year it may only be approximately \$10 per parcel. He said they were trying to figure the cost of an average year.

SEN. CHRISTIANS asked SEN. JERGESON if someone leased 20 acres, would the cost be seventeen cents. SEN. JERGESON answered that the minimum cost would be \$30, and anything over that would be 17¢ per parcel.

SEN. COLE asked SEN. JERGESON if all of the fire districts were in the western part of the state. SEN. JERGESON replied that the vast majority are in the west. Those on the east side would be under the National Forest Service, such as the Custer National Forest.

SEN. WILSON asked SEN. JERGESON if a trailer was moved in, would that be covered for fire suppression. SEN. JERGESON said that

would be considered a residential structure, and would be covered.

CHAIRMAN LORENTS GROSFIELD asked SEN. JERGESON if there was a reason for creating a special revenue account for fire suppression funds. SEN. JERGESON said initially it would be a special revenue account to make sure the fee is paid, because for some it will be a new fee.

Opponents' Testimony: None

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. JERGESON said he appreciated the hearing and the excellent questions from the committee members. Those who live in the cities and towns have fire protection costs included in their local taxes, and are helping to pay for the fire suppression supplemental. SEN. JERGESON said those who do not live in the fire areas should be given some fire suppression relief from those that do.

#### HEARING ON HB 72

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. CHARLES DEVANEY, District 97, Plentywood said HB 72 increases the fee that the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation may charge for a drilling permit from \$175 up to \$200 maximum, and authorizes a maximum fee of \$25 for filing a change of notice of operator. He said the board sets the fees by rule. The procedure is by public hearing with all interested parties having an opportunity for input. As indicated by the fiscal note, the maximum revenue is \$48,800, that will offset the administrative overhead. Those fees have not been adjusted since 1954. The board is charged with maintaining records on all oil and gas wells in the state of Montana from the first issuance of a drilling permit. The records also contain the history of the well during the life time of that well. REP. DEVANEY said he would comment on the amendments to HB 72 in his closing statement.

Proponents' Testimony:

Tom Richmond, Administrator, Board of Oil and Gas, Billings, said the fees are set by statute with a three tiered level by depth. There may be an amendment to change that, but presently the proposal is for a single drilling permit fee regardless of depth, with a cap of \$200. He said, currently field inspections are performed on wells that are subject to a change of operators. The purpose of that fee is to recoup some of those administrative

costs. **Mr. Richardson** said he contacted a number of other states regarding their fees, and Colorado has a \$200 permit fee regardless of depth, and \$25 per well for change of operator. North Dakota charges \$100 permit fee regardless of depth and \$25 for change of operator. Nebraska's permit fee is currently \$75 and are proposing to raise that to \$200. North Dakota's permit fee is \$100 and no charge for change of operator. Louisiana's fee is \$100 for a shallow well and \$500 for medium range and \$1,000 for a deep well of about \$10,000 feet. Texas has a sliding scale from \$100 to \$300. He said he talked to a former board member who was active in the Kevin, Sunburst area in 1954 about the cost of drilling in that area. At that time a cable tool rig cost \$12.50 per hour and would take about seven days to drill at a cost of approximately \$2,100 and to complete the well would cost approximately \$4,000. A gas well drilled in 1994 cost approximately \$200 per hour and takes about two days at a drilling cost of approximately \$10,000 and equipped to produce, is approximately \$35,000. Shell Oil's first well cost \$270,000 and the permit fee was \$150,000.

{Tape: 1; Side: B}

**Mr. Richards** said because there were so many changes of operators, there was not enough staff to handle all of them. In 1994 over 2,000 changes in operators were processed, because two of the largest gas fields in the state changed hands.

**Jerome Anderson, Attorney, Shell Western Exploration and Production, Inc.**, said that Shell is the largest crude oil producing company in Montana. The operation extends along the Cedar Creek anticline which runs southeast from Glendive to Baker where Montana, North and South Dakota meet. Lines 25-29 was language that was suggested to the House committee as an amendment to SB 128. That language was inserted so that another drilling permit would not be required every time the drilling tools were moved approximately 175 feet. He said they had no problem leaving the authority with the board in setting the drilling fees.

**REP. FELAND**, said he supported HB 72 because of the amendments. **EXHIBIT 1.** The amendments were submitted for some of the reasons **Mr. Richards** addressed. If there was a change of operator on say 200 wells, there would be a maximum charge of \$250. The operator submits all the data for a change of operator, and the board makes sure all the permits are in order. Then a field inspection will be made, that is paid for by a fee increase. He said because of the impact on smaller operators, they were trying to limit some of the fees.

**Dennis Iverson, representing the Northern Montana Oil and Gas Association**, said they supported a fee increase, because there was a chance of losing the Oil and Gas Branch Office in Shelby,

and the reason the company supports HB 72. He said, there has been a lot of comment on the \$25 transfer fee, and therefore, strongly support the amendments to HB 72. The reason is, many of those wells are extremely marginal. A group of investors recently decided to shut down, which would have terminated a number of employees, so the employees purchased the operation that involved 700 wells; and a \$25 cost per well would have probably killed the deal. **Mr. Iverson** stated they support SB 72 and amendments contained in **EXHIBIT 1**.

**Pat Riley, representing an Independent Company in northern Montana**, stated they were in support of HB 72 and the amendments for the same reasons as stated by **Mr. Iverson**. She said A large field with approximately 400 wells with a 3% profit margin and an additional \$25 per well charge, would leave no profit margin.

**Jim Jenson, Executive Director, Montana Environmental Information Center**, said in the past, the oil & gas industry and the environmental community have not always agreed. HB 72 allows the Board of Oil & Gas to maintain a newer approach to regulations of oil & gas that commenced in the late 1980's. After two years the board developed some new rules that are working well. The conflict over the development of new oil & gas concepts in the state have been radically diminished, because of the process of working together and solving their problems. **Mr. Jenson** said they support HB 72 that allows the Board of Oil and Gas to increase the fees, and to keep the field office in Shelby to serve Montanan's needs.

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Questions From Committee Members and Responses:**

**SEN. B. F. "CHRIS" CHRISTIAENS** asked **Mr. Richmond** what effect the proposed amendments would have on the fiscal note, because it would eliminate most of the \$15,000. **Mr. Richmond** said one of the amendments would put a cap on ten wells at \$25 and \$250 on a change of operator. He said he would have to find out how many transfers that are less than 10 wells. As production declines, the bigger companies have a larger overhead and the field isn't economic to operate, and will sell to a smaller company. A guesstimate of two-thirds of the wells would be less than 4500 feet and one third would be deeper.

**SEN. CHRISTIAENS** asked **Mr. Richmond** how much of the proceeds were going toward keeping the Shelby office, and if that is depleted, at what point would that office be closed. **Mr. Richmond** stated that all the funds go into an earmarked account from the license and privilege tax, which is set at two-tenths of one percent. The decision to close the Shelby office was because of a decline in oil production and the decline in the price of oil. The board considered closing the Helena and Shelby offices and

consolidating them into the Billings office. The board's decision to keep the Shelby office open was because of a lot of public input.

**SEN. CHRISTIAENS** asked if it was decided to keep the Shelby office open solely because of finances or was it for the producers in the area. **Mr. Richmond** stated for both of those reasons, and they don't want the office to go to Billings. He said there were no funds allocated solely to keep the Shelby office open.

**SEN. GROSSFIELD** said to **Mr. Richmond** that the fiscal note says there was a \$15,000 note based upon a \$50 fee. That was amended in the House and will probably be half as much when it gets to the Senate.

**VICE CHAIRMAN LARRY TVEIT** said on Page 2, Line 6 of HB 72 it states: "The board may charge a fee not to exceed \$200 for a drilling permit and not to exceed \$25 for filing a notice of change of operator. Fees must be set by board rule." However, the fiscal note says "not to exceed \$50." **SEN. TVEIT** asked **Mr. Richmond** if that was a misprint on the fiscal note. **Mr. Richmond** replied that the bill was amended on the House floor changing the \$50 fee to \$25.

**SEN. VIVIAN BROOKE** asked **Mr. Richmond** if he supported the amendment and if they could live within the budget. **Mr. Richmond** said instead of limiting a \$25 fee for ten wells, they preferred to limit the amount that can be charged. Others feel that some guidelines should be set for the board and see if the process will work.

**SEN. BROOKE** asked **Mr. Richmond** if the statement of intent was added on the House floor. **Mr. Richmond** replied he thought that was right. **SEN. BROOKE** asked **Mr. Richmond** why they came in with a sliding scale now. He replied they wanted to set the scale by rule and not by statute, and is the reason for setting caps in the original bill of no more than \$50 per well and no more than \$200 for a drilling permit.

**SEN. JEFF WELDON** asked **REP. FELAND** if amendment no. 8 was a coordination instruction that refers to another bill that would strike any fee for change of operator. **REP. FELAND** replied that was correct, that will be coordinated language with another bill that will be introduced that will raise the license and privilege tax that funds the Board of Oil and Gas. Currently the tax is .002% and the other bill will be .003%

**REP. FELAND** said they support the fee increase in order to maintain the Shelby office, because that office is needed. The reason for setting the fees on drilling permits is, if someone wanted to drill a hundred gas wells, and the cost was \$200 per

well for 1500 foot wells, it would cost approximately \$20,000 which is a lot of money.

**SEN. WELDON** asked if the difference between .002% and .003% would be enough to fund the board. **Mr. Richmond** replied that an extra

tenth would derive approximately \$300,000, but was not sure of the exact amount.

**SEN. FOSTER** asked **REP. DEVANEY** if they were in dire need of funds, because an effective date was requested upon approval of HB 72. **REP. DEVANEY** said it was an oversight when the bill was drafted. Actually the start of the next fiscal date of July 1, would acceptable.

**SEN. GROSFIELD** asked **REP. DEVANEY** if he reviewed the amendments and if he would comment on them. **REP. DEVANEY** replied he had not had a chance to discuss them indepth with **Mr. Richmond**. Basically all fees and the license and privilege tax are all set by rule on a sliding scale by the Board of Oil and Gas Conservation at their public hearings. If a drilling permit request is filed for a 1700 foot gas well it would cost the same as it would for a 12,500 foot permit because there is a cap on the fees.

*{Tape: 2; Side: A}*

**SEN. KEATING** asked **REP. FELAND** if he knew what the status of the bill was for the increase of the conservation tax. **REP. FELAND** replied that **REP. DEVANEY** was carrying that bill. **REP. DEVANEY** replied that the bill is still being drafted. He said the .002% in the current statute is based upon price and volume of the increase of oil. In 1982 and 1983 the price and volume dropped drastically, and as a result, the license and privilege tax reduced dramatically.

**Gail Abercrombie, Executive Director, Montana Petroleum Association** said they support the Board of Oil and Gas to maintain their autonomy to function effectively. There is concern regarding increases in taxes and fees. Alternative funding had been discussed for the Board of Oil and Gas. There was discussion as to whether or not to use the Resource Indemnity Trust, or if the RIT capped at \$100 million, the excess could be used to fund the Board of Oil & Gas. They were looking for other funding sources so as not to incur more taxes.

**SEN. KEATING** said HB 72 does provide a tax increase and the marginal producer will have a higher tax rate. He said if he was going to transfer a 200 barrel a day well, \$200 wouldn't be a problem, but if 200 wells are transferred that produce 100 barrels a day, that is not a lot of expense compare to the value. When you start transferring operations of a half a barrel a day, than that \$25 fee becomes a pretty big percentage of the value of



production. He said he wondered if the Board of Oil and Gas would get funding somewhere else or whether or not they needed those fees.

SEN. FOSTER asked REP. FELAND if he proposed the amendments in the House. REP. FELAND replied that he proposed the first set of amendments, and it may need more amendments. The coordinating language in Line 8 as contained in the amendment, (EXHIBIT 1) was to see if there was some support from the license and privilege tax.

SEN. FOSTER said the attempt was to have the first 5-7 amendments tagged on to HB 72 while it was in the House, but either in committee or on the floor, it was not accomplished. REP. FELAND said all of the amendments were proposed in the committee hearing.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. DEVANEY said the fee increase was warranted because of the increase in the administrative overhead. He said the commission keeps extremely good records on every well. A new operator has to go to the Oil and Gas Commission for a complete set of records on the well. He said the amendments would be up to the expertise of the committee members, and asked for a do pass recommendation.

HEARING ON HB 80

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. GARY FELAND, HOUSE DISTRICT 88, said HB 80 changes the way a bond can be forfeited for oil and gas production. In the last session it was changed from a conservation bond to a penal bond. The reason for changing that back to a conservational bond is to make sure funds are available for plugging abandoned wells and restoration of the surface. The bonds cannot be pulled for noncompliance reasons.

Proponents' Testimony:

Mr. Iverson said they strongly support HB 80. Those bonds are intended to make certain that the state isn't left with a liability. It is not appropriate for bonds to be used administratively or any other way.

Jim Jenson said they support HB 80 for the reasons Mr. Iverson stated.

Opponents' Testimony:

Tom Richmond, Board of Oil and Gas, read a letter addressed to Stanley Lund, Chairman, Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation from their attorney, Donald A. Garrity as contained in EXHIBIT 2. HB 80 will require the board to plug a well and restore the surface before making a claim against the bond for the actual costs involved.

Questions From Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. CHRISTIAENS said HB 80 was reviewed in Long Range Building Committee and had a different fiscal note. That fiscal note said, the bill transferred liability between \$32 million and \$160 million to the state of Montana. Rep. Feland stated there was no fiscal impact with HB 80, that fiscal note came out before the language issue. Mr. Iverson said that fiscal note reflects the bill as it was originally introduced. The original draft of the bill would have released all the wells drilled prior to 1989 from any bond requirements. He said Mr. Petesch prepared amendments that corrected that problem, and apparently the fiscal note had not been changed since the bill had been corrected.

SEN. KEATING said a determination had to be made relative to bonds that existed prior to 1989, and the reason for the bond was so the operator couldn't walk away and leave an environmental mess and an unplugged well. The department could then foreclose on the bond to cover the damages. HB 80 says there is a surety bond and instead of foreclosing on a bond and having enough money to do the reclamation, the department will have to fight with the insurance company over having enough money to do the reclamation.

REP. FELAND stated that is probably right, but if there is one well that costs \$1,500 to plug, they would take all of the bond under the old system. Now they have to show how much it will cost to plug a well and pay that amount. The main reason for the bill is so that the bond cannot be pulled for penal reasons.

SEN. KEATING asked REP. FELAND to define "penal." He replied that it could be used for the purpose of a fine and would authorize authority to lift the bond.

SEN. WELDON asked Mr. Richmond if there was a way to estimate the cost of the reclamation that would have to be done, by administrative rules to govern the process for the estimate. Mr. Richmond replied that the costs of plugging wells are so highly variable. There were some wells plugged in the Laurel field, which is a very shallow production field, and small diameter wells. Those wells cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 to plug. A well near Broadview cost \$68,000 to plug. Recently one was plugged on Cat Creek that had no records because it was so old, at a cost of

approximately \$75,000. He said the costs are so variable it is difficult to estimate.

**SEN. WELDON** asked **Mr. Richmond** if the estimate was lower than the actual cost, would the bond make up the difference. He said in most cases the bond is not enough to plug the well. There is nothing in the language of the bill that precludes the board from making a partial forfeiture. In the last session, the language in the statute was requested because of a dispute with the surety bond. They asked the department to do the job and they would pay what they thought was needed. Therefore, the language was amended to say that the board can forfeit the bond in the entire amount if the board desires, but that doesn't say it has to.

**Closing by Sponsor:**

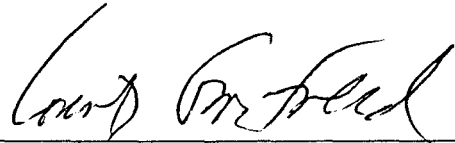
**REP. FELAND** said HB 80 guarantees that the state has bonds that cover those wells when it is time for conservation. Most of the bonds that are posted are cash because of not being able to get a company to post a bond for an oil and gas well. The bond guarantees that the operator will be there to plug the well when the time comes. **REP. FELAND** asked the committee members for a Do Pass recommendation.

**CHAIRMAN GROSFIELD** said the committee members may wish to wait for the tax bill before taking executive action on HB 80. He said there was no particular reason to act on HB 72 and HB 80 immediately.


*Comments: This meeting was recorded on 2 sixty minute tapes.}*

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:30 PM



LORENTS GROSFIELD, Chairman



THEDA ROSSBERG, Secretary

LR/tr

SEN

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

1-18-95

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Amendments to House Bill No. 72  
Third Reading Copy

Requested by Representative Feland  
For the Committee on Natural Resources

Prepared by Greg Petesch  
January 18, 1995

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES  
EXHIBIT NO. 1  
DATE 1-18-95  
BILL NO. HB-72

1. Title, line 8.  
Strike: "DRILLING PERMITS AND"

2. Title, line 9.  
Strike: "LIMITING"  
Insert: "REVISING"  
Following: "PERMITS"  
Strike: "AND"  
Insert: "; LIMITING FEES FOR"

3. Page 1, line 15.  
Following: "rule"  
Strike: "drilling permit fees"  
Insert: "a fee"  
Following: "exceed"  
Strike: "\$200 for a drilling permit and"

4. Page 1, line 17.  
Strike: "FEES"  
Insert: "fee"

5. Page 2, line 4.  
Following: line 3  
Insert: "The fee for a drilling permit is \$100 for a well with an estimated depth that does not exceed 4,500 feet and \$200 for a well with a depth that is estimated to exceed 4,500 feet."

6. Page 2, line 6.  
Following: "fee"  
Strike: "not to exceed \$200 for a drilling permit and"

7. Page 2, line 7.  
Following: "operator"  
Insert: "for up to 10 transfers in a multiple well transfer"

8. Page 2, line 8.  
Insert: " NEW SECTION. Section 2. Coordination. If      Bill No.      [LC 1101] is passed and approved, 82-11-134(3), authorizing a fee for a change of operator, is void."  
Renumber: subsequent section

EXHIBIT NO. 2DATE 1-18-95BILL NO. HB 80

DONALD A. GARRITY

ATTORNEY AT LAW

1313 ELEVENTH AVENUE

HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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January 18, 1995

Stanley Lund, Chairman  
Montana Board of Oil & Gas Conservation  
P.O. Box 96  
Reserve, MT 59258

Re: House Bill No. 80

Dear Mr. Lund:

You have asked me to advise you what effects, if any, passage of House Bill No. 80 would have on the operations of the Board.

In its present form, House Bill No. 80 removes the language authorizing the board to forfeit a bond in its entirety for failure to properly plug a well and replaces that language with the statement that "The bond must be a performance bond and may not be a penal bond or be penal in nature." In essence, this will require the board to plug a well and restore the surface before making a claim against the surety for the actual costs involved. Since the board has limited funds available for such work and gives priority to plugging wells which pose an imminent danger to life or property, it may be a considerable length of time before a particular well is plugged by the board. Then, should the surety question the reasonableness of the costs incurred, litigation on this question would add to the delay and the costs.

Current practice is to give the surety the option of forfeiting the full amount of the bond or arranging for the proper plugging of the well or wells itself. In my twenty-five years with the board, I can recall no instance where the surety chose to do the work itself although several did investigate this option.

Under section 82-11-136, MCA, the board may presently expend funds from forfeited bonds to properly plug any abandoned well. House Bill 80 would prevent the board from collecting on a bond until after it has expended its own funds on the well or wells which are covered by the bond.

EXHIBIT NO. 2

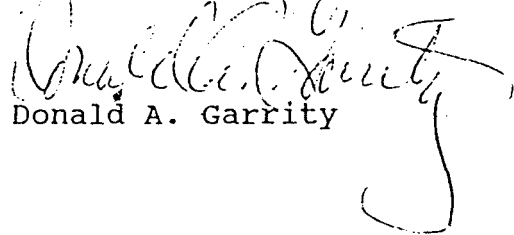
DATE 1-18-95

BILL NO. H.B. 80

Stanley Lund  
January 18, 1995  
Page Two

The problems this would create can, however, be readily met by raising the amount of the bond required to an amount adequate to pay the full cost of plugging and restoring each well. This may be the true intent of this legislation. It certainly will require the board to revisit its bond requirements.

Very truly yours,

  
Donald A. Garrity

DAG rs



DATE 1-18-95

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY: SB 128, HB 72, HB 80

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Check One

Name	Representing	Bill No.	Support	Oppose
Claudio Devaney Rep	HD 97	72	X	
Steve Hudson	SWEPI HB 72	72	X	
GAIL ABERCROMBIE	MT Petroleum Assn	72	X	
Robert A. Knudson	Helena Fire Dept.	128		
Fritz R. Zettel	" "	"		
Jim Jensen	MECE	72, 80 SB 128	X	
J. Shultz	MT Assoc. REACTORS	128		
Tom Richmond	Board of Oil & Gas	72	X	80 X
John P. G. Kelly	Self	72 80	X	
William R. Ayers	Self	72 80	X	
Gary Glend	Self	72	X	
DENNIS IVERSON	NMOEX	72+80	X	

## VISITOR REGISTER

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY